

OPINION METERThis week's poll:

saipantribune.com

Do you support the creation of a new Marianas Political Status Commission that will re-examine the CNMI's relationship with the United States?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

WORLD



A Senate report declares that the Benghazi assault was preventable.

➤ PAGE 20

OFFBEA'



Wildlife officials are trying to figure out why all the fish died in a Nevada marina.

PAGE 21

LIFE & STYLE



Chris Pine says the U.S. should have done more to protest Russia's anti-gay legislation. ➤ PAGE 24

US withholds transfer of 5 islands' submerged lands

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com

resident Barack Obama signed a proclamation yesterday temporarily withholding the transfer to the CNMI of submerged lands around five islands that are either part of a national marine monument or under lease to the U.S. military. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the Legislature's request for a firm 180-day timeline to come up with a co-management plan, among other things, was not considered.

» CNMI takes steps to later control withheld submerged lands

completed on the rest.
The CNMI is the last U.S. coastal state or territory to own its offshore lands.

This means the CNMI

controls only the sub-

merged 3-mile lands around

nine of its 14 islands, until

management deals can be

Obama exempted from the transfer to the CNMI the control of submerged lands around Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas), Maug, and Asuncion that are part of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, as well as Tinian and Faral-

See LANDS on Page 4

Public warned

Abby Crisostomo, 9, plays with colorful balloons for sale in her mother's booth, "Island Arts and Crafts," at the Garapan

Street Market yesterday afternoon at the

Garapan Fishing Base. A number of vendors at the Thursday market are protesting

a land fee that is equal to 1 percent of each

vendor's gross sales, but the Department

of Public Lands says it could either waive

or reduce such fee if the Department of

Community and Cultural Affairs requests

and justifies the need to do so.

of increased flulike illnesses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth deposa@saipantribune.co

moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation's Public Health Division cautioned the public yesterday on the increasing number of influenza or flu-like illnesses.

Division director Margaret T. Aldan said the hospital is seeing an increase in the number of these cases and that the flu season may likely continue for weeks.

In a statement yesterday, Aldan "advises the general public that...flu activity is widespread in most of the islands around this time of the year. High levels of flu activity are likely to continue for several more weeks. If you have not gotten your flu vaccine yet this season, you should get one now."

The flu vaccine is the first and best way to protect people from contracting flu and its potentially serious complications, she said.

See PUBLIC on Page 4

Kilili seeks 4th term in Congress



Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) will mark his 59th birthday on Sunday by officially announcing he is seeking

a fourth term in Congress, saying that "experience and seniority make a member of Congress more effective." He will remain an Independent.

"The longer I am in Congress, the more I can accomplish for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, both in Congress and within the federal government agencies," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

To date, no one else has made known his or her intention to run as delegate in the November race, in which CNMI voters will also get to pick a governor, an attorney general for the first time, lawmakers, mayors and other officials.

Sablan is the CNMI's only—and so far only—nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives by virtue of

a 2008 law that also placed CNMI immigration under federal control. He was first sworn into office in January 2009

He was re-elected in the 2010 and 2012 elections. Each term consists of two years.

In the 2012 mid-term race, he won by a landslide against his Republican opponent, Dr. Ignacia "Acha" Demapan. Sablan got 9,829 votes against Demapan's 2,503—a remarkable 7,326-vote lead.

See KILILI on Page 4

Man arrested for allegedly attacking father with chair. PAGE 3 SCC names nominees for Business Person of the Year. PAGE 8

>>> Sunday fundraiser

also marks his

59th birthday

2 FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local



Castro held on \$1M cash bail in death of baby girl

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Thirty-one-year-old John Jesse Tudela Castro appeared before Magistrate Judge Alberto Tolentino yesterday afternoon and was formally charged with aggravated murder in the death last weekend of a 23-month-old baby girl.

Castro was ordered held on a \$1 million cash bail.

On Monday, medical examiner Dr. Aurileo Espinola concluded that the child's death was a homicide after finding that the girl's skull had been fractured and her intestine and liver were lacerated by blunt force trauma.

Castro was arrested by Guam police early Tuesday morning. Court documents state that he

told police that he may have rolled over on the girl while he was asleep.

Castro appeared on the screen from the Hagatna lockup, head bowed, answering questions from the judge with only a brief "yes sir" or "no sir."

His attorney, Curtis Van de Veld, questioned the charges, pointing to the magistrate complaint that refers to the medical examiner's report. The magistrate complaint states that Espinola's autopsy "report also indicates that there was a contusion to the forehead, and multiple contusions to the back of her head that had occurred several days before the victim was brought to the hospital."

SDLLC counsel: Maratita, Yumul no desire to pursue taxpayer's suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Rep. Janet U. Maratita and Sen. Ray A. Yumul no longer want to pursue their taxpayers' lawsuit against the power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC since the political goal of removing Benigno R. Fitial as CNMI governor had already been accomplished, according to SDLLC lawyer William Fitzgerald.

In SDLLC's opposition to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s motion to dismiss SDLLC's lawsuit, Fitzgerald pointed out that an examination of the docket in the taxpayers' lawsuit will show that, for almost a year, Maratita and Yumul have done nothing except to file a joinder to CUC's motion for summary judgment on July 26, 2013.

"It is assumed this was done at CUC's request since the basis for CUC's summary judgment request that the contract was illegal had not been raised by CUC as a defense," the lawyer said.

Maratita, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, filed the

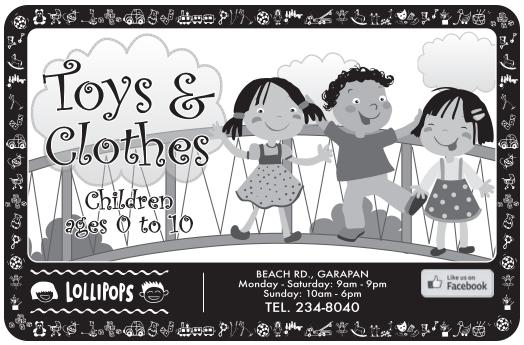
lawsuit in the Superior Court in August 2012; Yumul joined as co-plaintiff. The lawsuit named as defendants Fitial, CUC, SDLLC, and others, over the allegedly illegal \$190.8 million power purchase agreement that CUC, through the former governor, signed with the Delaware-based SDLLC. Maratita and Yumul sought to have the 25-year PPA declared "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore, cancelled."

Fitial resigned and left the CNMI in the latter part of 2013 and has not returned to face charges of misconduct filed against him by the Office of the Public Auditor.

Fitzgerald said there were hearings regarding an injunction in the taxpayers' lawsuit, but no depositions were ever taken and no discovery was submitted.

"In fact, no scheduling order, pursuant to Rule 16 of the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure, has ever been filed," he noted.

SDLLC in turn, is suing CUC in federal court over the voided PPA.





Man arrested for allegedly attacking father with chair

A 30-year-old man was arrested for allegedly hitting his father with a dining chair at their house in Sinapalo I, Rota on Monday.

The alleged victim, Henry Ogo, who is in his early 60's, sustained scratches on the left knee and a scrape on the right forearm. He also had a scratch on his chest, police said.

His son, Serafin M. Ogo, was

Public's help sought to find rob suspect

The Department of Public Safety sought the public's help yesterday regarding the whereabouts of Manuel Jones Villagomez, who is wanted for his alleged involvement in a robbery case.

DPS spokesman Travis Hurst said the Superior Court issued an arrest warrant against Villagomez on charges of robbery, conspiracy, and disturbing the peace.



Villagomez

Hurst said detectives and police officers from DPS Commonwealth Bureau of Investiga-

tion and the Commonwealth State Police have not been able to capture Villagomez pursuant to this arrest warrant.

Hurst said they are asking for the assistance of CNMI residents for information on the suspect's whereabouts.

Anyone who has information should call DPS.

The DPS police spokesman did not release more details about the case.

Saipan Tribune learned that the incident was about a purse snatching case in Garapan last Dec. 3. The victims were tourists.

Villagomez was arrested early this week for domestic violence and appeared before Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio. The defendant was released after posting bail. (Ferdie de la Torre)

arrested for illegal possession of a firearm, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief. He is being kept on a \$50,000 cash bail. Preliminary hearing is on Jan. 21.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as Ogo's counsel.

Police detective Tricia A. Manglona stated in her report that the Department of Public Safety dispatcher received a call on Sunday at 11:56pm about an ongoing fight at the house of Henry Ogo.

After a few minutes, another caller reported to police that gunshots were heard coming from the same house.

Henry Ogo told the respond-

ing police officer that he and his wife were asleep when their son, Serafin, arrived and asked him for a fight for no reason. He said his son then started hitting him with a dining chair several times on his body and forearms. Henry Ogo managed to chase out his son from the house. He then called for police's assistance.

Serafin Ogo told police that he and his father got into a fight. He told police that his father just got aggressive when he told him to relax because he was not talk-



The mother told police that Serafin Ogo had asked to borrow their truck but the father refused. The father and son then



...and many more!

V-COOL HAO'S AIR-CONDITIONING

argued and started to fight.

One officer searched the house and found a rifle under a blanket. The gun's magazine was still attached. Police secured the gun and arrested Serafin Ogo.

A witness told police that he

heard three gunshots coming from Henry Ogo's house. Manglona's report, however, did not mention as to who fired the gun.

Police learned that it was not the first time that Serafin Ogo allegedly assaulted his father. (Ferdie de la Torre)



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Guam senator scores racism vs FAS migrants

HAGATNA, Guam—Sen. Michael F.O. San Nicolas reacts to recent comments made by Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio about Compact Impact migrants who have made Guam their home.

"When you draw a line between our people, you are not promoting public safety," said San Nicolas. "It's one thing to say that we need to make sure the laws of Guam are followed

lon de Medinilla that are under

The Jan. 15 (Jan. 16, CNMI

time) presidential proclama-

tion came some four months

after the enactment of a law

conveying submerged lands to

The president had 120 days—

The submerged lands around

the CNMI's three northernmost

islands will remain in federal

hands pending an agreement for

"coordination of management

that ensures the protection of the

marine national monument with

the excepted area," Obama said

in his presidential proclamation.

lands around U.S. military leas-

es on Tinian and FDM will be

transferred to the CNMI upon

an agreement that "ensures

protection of military training

within the excepted area," the

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C.

Sablan (Ind-MP), in a state-

ment yesterday, said he has al-

ready written to the president

and the governor, urging them

to complete negotiations on

both agreements as quickly as

"Having worked for five

years to win enactment of Pub-

lic Law 113-34, which conveys

ownership to the people of the

Northern Mariana Islands, I am

deeply committed to seeing this

transfer completed without fur-

ther undue delay," Sablan said.

Sens. Ron Wyden and Lisa

Murkowski introduced S. 256

or the submerged lands legisla-

tion that became U.S. Public

Law 113-34. It gives the CNMI

control of the underwater coasts

Press secretary Angel Demapan

said yesterday that despite the

governor and the Legislature's

concerns, the administration

still expected that the presiden-

tial proclamation would happen

anyway, although the governor

"was hopeful that the procla-

mation, before being finalized,

would've heeded the recom-

mendations he made in an effort

to safeguard the interest of the

people of the Commonwealth."

that the President intends to

withhold conveyance of the af-

"Governor Inos appreciates

of its islands.

Resolving issues

At Sablan's request, U.S.

proclamation adds.

possible.

Similarly, the submerged

or until Jan. 16—to hold lands

that have a federal purpose.

lease to the U.S. military.

LANDS

From Page 1

the CNMI.

and rules are applied, like Vice the fact we no longer feel safe Speaker Cruz said, but it's entirely something else to say that those who follow the laws applicable to everyone else are not welcomed because of their race. The safety of our community is our shared responsibility. As the public safety czar, Lt. Gov. Tenorio needs to also accept responsibility for the rise in crime during his administration and

fected areas on a temporary

arrangement and desires to

resolve the issue of formulat-

ing management plans as soon

as possible," Demapan told

In order to achieve this,

the governor has tasked legal

counsel Wes Bogdan to take

the lead in working with the

CNMI members of the Marian-

as Trench Monument Advisory

Council and federal officials to

reach mutually agreeable man-

"Still, Governor Inos believes

that his recommended action

items would have ensured the

timely and fair completion of

these plans. The governor had

asked the president to one, re-

quire the parties to come up

with a plan within 180 days fol-

lowing the proclamation, and

secondly, to include a process

to resolve outstanding issues

should negotiations reach an

Senate floor leader Ray

Yumul (Ind-Saipan) said he

"could only contemplate now

how negotiating future leases

with the federal government

Yumul was the original au-

thor of a Senate resolution ask-

ing Obama to delay the with-

holding of transfer and give a

180-day period to resolve the

issues through Covenant 902

talks. Before it was adopted

on Tuesday, the resolution

became sponsored by the full

Permanent vs temporary

Sablan said U.S. Public Law

113-34 added the CNMI to the

Territorial Submerged Lands

Act, which transferred own-

ership of lands around Guam,

the U.S. Virgin Islands, and

American Samoa to local con-

In the case of Guam, the U.S.

Virgin Islands, and American

Samoa, the federal government

retained "permanent ownership

He added that Apra Harbor

and other coastal areas of Guam

were handed over to the U.S.

Navy, as were an underwater

range off of St. Croix in the Vir-

The U.S. Department of the

Interior and the U.S. Depart-

ment of Commerce were given

control of American Samoa's

submerged lands surrounding

the Rose Atoll National Wildlife

"But in the case of the North-

Refuge, Sablan said.

of lands," Sablan said.

impasse," Demapan said.

will be like."

CNMI Senate.

ownership

trol in 1974.

gin Islands.

Saipan Tribune.

agement plans.

in our own homes, rather than trying to deflect the issue on the

San Nicolas suggests that Tenorio focus his efforts on enforcing Guam's laws, not dividing the community with inflam-

businesses get their business licenses renewed without paying their taxes, clearly in violation of the law, which is something Lt. Gov. Tenorio can immediately address, recovering millions of dollars of the peoples' money to pay for more police officers, more patrol cars, and strengthen the public safety of our island," San Nicolas stated. "Follow the law, help our island, and spare our people the indecency of racism." (PR)

nate in order to ensure compli-

ance with the CNMI constitu-

tional restrictions and with any

federal regulations that apply in

It has been over five years

since Bush and Fitial com-

pleted their agreement on the

to work out the management is-

In the case of the submerged

lands around Tinian and FDM,

Sablan said the lease to the U.S.

military already includes the

surrounding waters, as well as

the surface lands on those two

founding fathers, who nego-

tiated the Covenant and the

Technical Agreement regard-

ing the use of federally leased

lands pursuant to Sections 802

and 803 of the Covenant, de-

cided that the lease would in-

clude the 'waters immediately

adjacent' to the leased areas,'

Sablan said the lease for Ti-

nian and FDM that the gover-

nor, the Legislature, the Mari-

anas Public Land Corp. and

the Commonwealth Ports Au-

thority signed off on in 1983

contained the same language.

CNMI based on the under-

standing they were getting ac-

cess to the waters around the

islands as well as the dry land.

courts decided in 2005 that

the Commonwealth did not

own those waters, which is

why I had to get Public Law

113-34 enacted. But the lease

has proven itself over the last

31 years. The Saipan-Tinian

ferry and other shipping has

gone back and forth past the

military lands without any

problem. Fishermen have had

the access that was specifical-

ly guaranteed in the Technical

year agreement must. The peo-

ple who signed the Covenant

and who wrote the lease knew

what they were doing and cer-

tainly understood they needed

to protect the rights of the peo-

ple of the Northern Marianas,"

Sablan added.

"Of course, the federal

The U.S. also paid the

Commonwealth's

"It's high time for both sides

the monument, he said.

monument.

Covenant

islands.

he said.

"The

sues," Sablan said.

PUBLIC

apologies.

CORRECTION

In yesterday's story titled, "Some got paid up to

\$4.4M; over 300 yet to see a penny," one landowner,

a Palacios family, was paid \$1,927 not \$1.927 mil-

lion as printed for 34 square meters of land. Our

From Page 1

"When you get vaccinated, you protect yourself, your loved ones and others in your community. This is especially important for people at high risk for complications of influenza, such as those with a weakened immune system, pregnant women, children 6 months to 5 years old and adults 65 years and older," said Aldan.

She highly recommends for the public to follow the guidelines for seasonal flu immunization. Other than getting the flu shot, wash your hands for 20 seconds, avoid the sick, teach

about the flu, cover your cough, and have a plan when there's an outbreak of influenza.

she advised patients to contact their healthcare provider before visiting the clinic for advice. "By doing this, it will help avoid exposing other people at

nity members.

available doses was not immediately available when asked by Saipan Tribune yesterday.

This vote margin is considered historic as Sablan is the first political candidate who total over an opponent. Sablan received 78 percent of the total wealth Election Commission in

me," he said yesterday.

Sablan said the submerged of legislation he introduced in

"It took five years of pushing, pushing to get the House, the Senate, and finally the White House to agree. We got the submerged lands signed into law; one of only 72 laws enacted last year. Experience and years of building relationships and trust made that possible," he said.

He said there are more to do in Congress.

"I am looking forward to getting the Northern Marianas into the national food stamp program, so benefits will go up. I have worked for three years to get that legislative change. And if the Farm Bill finally passes, there is a \$33 million pilot program for the Marianas tucked in there, when nationally food stamp funding is being cut. Again, experience and years of

If already sick with the flu,

the clinics." According to Hospital Emergency Preparedness director Warren Villagomez yesterday, the "corporation has enough stock of vaccines" that it can administer to commu-

recorded such a high winning ballots cast by the Commonthe 2012 polls.

lands bill was the first piece 2009.

work produce results," he said.

even more in the next Congress, he expects to focus on getting

The total number of these

KILILI

From Page 1

"I would just like to say thank vou, again, to everyone who has put their confidence in me to represent them in Congress and to make choices that are in the best interest of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. This is a tremendous responsibility and I work every day to live up to the trust people have given

Sablan said this year, and

more money for CNMI schools and for student meals. "We are already looking at

an increase of \$3 million for PSS [Public School System] this year. We're going up from \$4 million for Title I funding to over \$7 million. But we can't stop there. My aim is to get our students federal funding on par with students in the U.S. states. That's a multi-year process; and the longer I am on the Education Committee the better able I am to make those changes," he said.

Sablan said his critics are already at work against him.

"That's what House Resolution 18-34 is all about. That's what the petition is. But I have been attacked on immigration in every election. Voters are smart; they can see through that," he said.

Sablan made sure that U.S. Senate and U.S. House national immigration reform bills included a provision granting a pathway to citizenship for longterm legal aliens in the CNMI. The same national bills grant pathway to citizenship for some 11 million undocumented aliens in the United States.

The delegate said he also expects to be attacked by critics because he supports people in the CNMI "getting the same amount of food stamp help as Americans in Guam."

"But as long as we have children coming to school hungry on Monday because their families can't feed them enough over the weekend, I will keep fighting for more food assistance. As long as people on Rota and Tinian face sky-high food costs, I will keep fighting for them to get more help," he added.

Sablan's \$200-per-person birthday fundraiser will be held at Pacific Islands Club on Sunday from 6pm to 8pm.

basis of race." matory rhetoric.

"This administration lets 284

ern Marianas, the President de-

cided on a temporary arrange-

ment," Sablan pointed out. He said once co-management agreements are completed that address federal concerns in the marine monument's islands unit and around the militaryleased lands, the remaining submerged lands can be transferred to the CNMI.

'Obama commitment'

Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Eileen Sobeck said the conveyance reflects the administration's "longstanding, strong support for granting the CNMI rights similar to those accorded other territories for their surrounding submerged lands."

"We have also consulted extensively with CNMI leaders and gained an understanding regarding the need for a protective management plan for the submerged lands off militaryuse islands and in the national marine monument," she said.

Sobeck added that the CNMI people are well aware of their treasures and supported the creation of the monument "because they believed it will bring federal assets for marine surveillance, protection and enforcement to the Northern Islands."

"This [Obama] administration remains committed to working expeditiously with CNMI leaders to protect the outstanding resources in the national marine monument," Sobeck said.

Marine monument

Sablan reiterated that the proclamation that President Bush signed in 2009 after negotiation with then-CNMI governor Benigno R. Fitial creating the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument anticipated that the submerged lands around Maug, Uracas, and Asuncion in the monument might not be conveyed to the CNMI until there was an agreement between the Commonwealth and the federal government on how those submerged lands would be managed.

So federal and Commonwealth

Agreement to the Covenant," Sablan said. The delegate said it "may be that as the military steps up the pace of training, new issues could arise. "But the lease has some flexibility built into it, as any 100-

But Sablan said water and wildlife pass between the manmade boundary separating the monument and the Marianas. managers will have to coordi-

The islands are designated as "uninhabited places" to be used only for the preservation and protection of natural resources" by Article 14 of the Commonwealth Constitution.

Bureau administrator appoints DEQ, DCRM directors

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank M. Rabauliman appointed on Monday David Rosario as director for the Division of Environmental Quality and Fran Castro as director for the Division of Coastal Resources Management, a day after the effective date of the governor's executive order merging DEQ and CRM Office under one bureau

Rabauliman, in his Jan. 13 memo appointing Rosario and Castro, said the agency has changed its name to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, "although the CRM and DEQ Divisions remain."

Rosario takes over Rabauliman's former post as DEQ director. Prior to the merger, the CRM Office was headed in an interim capacity by Annie Agulto. "I encourage everyone to work together to ensure that there is no disruption of our day-to-day responsibilities. Please give the directors your full cooperation as we work toward the implementation of this reorganization," Rabauliman said in his one-page memo to DEQ and CRM staff.

Castro said yesterday she's excited "about the opportunity" and is aware of the challenges.

"But first priority is to enhance

all aspects of CRM, especially in the areas of permitting, enforcement, monitoring, outreach and more. We aim to provide efficiency in our services to the public and continuously share information about our programs," Castro told *Saipan Tribune*.

Prior to her appointment as DCRM director, Castro was manager for DEQ's nonpoint source pollution, marine monitoring and coral reef program for 16 years.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' Nov. 12 executive order merging DEQ and CRM Office was put on the spotlight when the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee raised concerns about possible loss of federal funds if the reorganization pushes through, among other things.

The JGO panel recommended rejection of the governor's EO barely days before the 60-day legislative deadline to either

modify or reject the reorganizational plan.

Later, however, the report recommending rejection was referred back to committee, owing to new information that shed light on some of the original concerns, including assurances from federal grantors National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that the CNMI does not risk losing money if DEQ and CRM merge.

Board: Lab certification a 'confidence booster' for CHC

>> CMS: Repeat deficiencies would be basis for immediate sanctions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The latest decision by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reaffirm the certificate of the public hospital's laboratory department is a "confidence booster" not only to the organization's staff and personnel but also to the very people it serves on the island, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres yesterday.

He said the board has been upbeat on the issue and in every step of the process to full compliance since Day 1.

"CMS issues are on top of the board's priority. Hearing the latest decision from CMS is a welcome news for all of us. It's good to see all efforts have paid off. Definitely, this is a confidence booster not only to our staff but to our people who own this public hospital," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

He assured all stakeholders of the corporation's continued commitment to deliver quality care.

The hospital lab unit was sanctioned in 2012 for failing to adhere to standards. Last month, CMS did a follow-up survey at the unit and its latest decision was based on the results of that visit.

CMS' latest decision was announced by Karen Fuller, the state oversight and CLIA branch manager under the CMS' Division of Survey and Certification.

While Fuller states that the federal agency has rescinded or cancelled the sanctions it issued in 2012, she, however, warned the corporation of immediate sanctions once deficiencies are found reoccurring.

"We caution the laboratory to maintain compliance with the CLIA requirements for successful participation testing. Any future repeat deficiencies would be a basis for immediate sanction action to limit, suspend, or revoke the laboratory's CLIA certificate," Fuller said in her letter to the corporation.

Fuller's letter also pointed out

that there remains "standard- field level deficiencies" they identi-

fied during last month's resurvey. She gave the corporation 10 days to report to CMS the plan of corrections for these de-

ficiencies.

CHCC board chair Torres disclosed that these "standard-level deficiencies" have already been rectified and addressed. He described the items as "minor stuff" and have been resolved.

"The management is now putting together the report that indicated the actions taken for these items and the board is confident that we can turn it in within the allowed timeframe," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Torres, "being vigilant and committed to resolve problems" are key to getting the desired results for the hospital.





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2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy contestants named

The United Filipino Organization has named the 20 contestants of the 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy competition set for Feb. 16, 6pm-10pm at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

The 20 pageant participants include five 9-year-olds, three 8-year-olds, seven 7-year-olds, and five 6-year-olds.

The 9-year-olds are Queen Anne H. Rectitud of William S. Reyes Elementary School, Chyla Geremy T. Aquino of Oleai Elementary School, Trisha Joyce McCarthy of WSR, Juliet D. Inocencio of San Vicente Elementary School, and Jasmin Asia P. Pinili of WSR.

The 8-year-old participants are Angel Lou D. Buensalido of Garapan Elementary School, Claire Elaiza Barrozo of San Antonio Elementary School, and Shaina Heart A. Dimalanta of GES.

Jane Nicole Mozunder of OES, Angela Marie B. Maratas of WSR, Francine Joy Ebuen of GES, Angelica May A. Aquino of SVES, Ramona Camacho of SAES, Tricia Mae V. Faustino of WSR, and Ariel Allyssa Mae of Legaspi Green Meadow School are the 7-year-old contestants.

The 6-year-olds are made up of Lyssa Rae P. Steele of Mt. Carmel School, Donna Rose U. Santiago, Alyrose B. Santos of GES, Charice T. Silvano of WSR, and Shanna Mae Villaluz of Koblerville Elementary School.

The 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy competition is open to girls 6-9 years old with at least



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nineteen of the 20 contestants of the 2013 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy pose for a photo during the pageant's first pictorial at the Saipan Music and Dance Studio in Garapan

one parent who is 100-percent Filipino. Nineteen of the 20 contestants took part in the pageant's first pictorial last Sunday at the Saipan Music and Dance Studio in Garapan. They've also had two rehearsals under their belts.

All 20 candidates will be competing for Best in Talent and Best in Evening Gown. Special awards include Miss Miss Congeniality, and Darling of the Crowd.

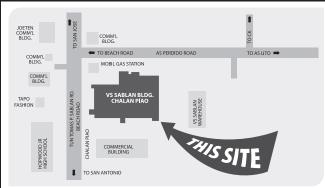
Prizes at stake are \$800 for first place, \$500 for second place, \$300 for third place, and \$100 for fourth place. All candidates will also receive certificates of participation and gift packs.

There will be a \$1 entrance fee to the 2014 Little Miss Pu-

Photogenic, Star of the Night, song Pinoy, which entitles ticket-holders to join a raffle.

> UFO is still looking for more donors and sponsors. For more details, call or text UFO president Annamae Adaza at 483-5237, UFO secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, event director Ernie Molina at 789-8212, or Ester Sablan at 789-5553. (Mark Rabago)

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2 burglary cases believed solved

A man who allegedly burglarized two houses of his neighbors in Finasisu in separate incidents last year has been arrested after a witness chased and identified him.

The alleged identification led police to serve the arrest warrant on the suspect, Pedro C. Manalo Jr., 28, on Wednesday on charges of burglary and theft.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a \$6,000 cash bail for Manalo's temporary release. Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 22 at 9am.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that the first burglary happened on Oct. 16 and the second on Dec. 23, where several tools and other items were stolen.

Pangelinan said the alleged victim in the Oct. 16 incident appeared at the police station on Dec. 23 to follow up on the two burglary and theft cases that occurred at his mother's house and at his neighbor's.

The alleged victim disclosed that Manalo left behind his black slipper under a mango tree when he chased the suspect earlier that night.

Pangelinan said she later proceeded to the scene where she took photos of the scene, procured a black DABA slipper, and interviewed witnesses.

The alleged victim told police that on Dec. 23 at 8:30pm to 9pm, he was in his mother's house when he noticed a flickering light from a flashlight at their neighbor's house. He knew it was a burglar because their neighbor had just left to visit a friend.

The alleged victim took a mop stick but accidentally made a loud noise, alerting the burglar. The burglar turned off his flashlight, ran to the back of the house, and hid behind a flower concrete vase.

The alleged victim/witness identified the burglar as their neighbor, Manalo, and yelled at him to stop running. During the chase, the suspect left behind his black slipper.

The alleged victim/witness managed to catch up with Manalo on the highway because the latter had stopped running as he was gasping for air. When he told Manalo he would call the police, the suspect fled toward his house.

When police officers arrived at the scene later, they found tools, including a skill saw and utility spike, on the ground, where Manalo had been hiding.

Pangelinan said that during her follow-up investigation, Manalo's child and his common-law wife identified the slipper that had been left behind as that of Manalo's.

Pangelinan said she also saw at Manalo's garage a chainsaw that matched the description of the tool that had been stolen from the victim who chased the suspect.

Pangelinan said the victim positively identified the chainsaw as among the items stolen from their house during the Oct. 16 burglary. (Ferdie de la Torre)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 15, 2014 NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Activity Status | Reprogram From | Reprogram to Planning and Planning and \$43.375.53 Administrative Costs Administrative Costs Ongoing 2011 Administrative Costs Administrative Costs \$69,582.47 Ongoing Saipan Southern \$250,000.00 2013 Facilities Swimming Pool Cancelled Construction of the Junior High School
Public Facility (Koblerville)* Public Public Facilities 2011/2012 \$362,958.00 Ongoing \$362,958.00 Total

Note*: The Community Development Grant funds will be allocated to the construction of the Junior High School Public Facility **Gymnasium**, a part of the master plan for the Construction of the Junior High School Public Facility.

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., February 14, 2014, at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Persons with disabilities requiring odations to submit comments may also contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas at the telephone numbers above for assistance

Marcie M. Tomokane

Chairwoman

Nisola, Castro top Hopwood spelling bee tilt By MONETH G. DEPOSA

REPORTER

Two students topped this year's spelling competition at Hopwood Junior High School, winning the right to represent their school in the upcoming Public School System-wide contest this month.

Eighth-grader Joyce Nisola was hailed the competition champion on Wednesday, besting 93 others in the initial round of the contest.

Nisola got the approving nod of judges after correctly spelling the winning words "stridency" and "vitriolic" in the final round, which had 20 contenders.

Nisola will be joined at the state-level competition for public schools by runner-up Christian Castro, a 7th-grader from Team D.

Nisola and Castro were awarded trophies and medals for their achievement while all participating students received certificates of participation.

According to Hopwood principal Jonas Barcinas, if Nisola wins at the state level. she will have the chance to represent the CNMI in Guam for the regional spelling bee and hopefully make it to the



Participants in this year's Spelling Bee Competition at Hopwood Junior High School gather for a group photo with their school administrators after the contest on Wednesday.

nationals in Washington D.C.

Barcinas said the school's spelling bee competition started last week and was organized by the school administration and staff. He commended vice principals for Curriculum and Instruction Epi Cabrera and Jocelyn Manibusan-Tudela, as well as vice principal for Student Services Lynn Mendiola for the successful event.



Nisola



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Chamber names nominees for Business Person of the Year

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is happy to announce nominations for 2013 Business Person of the Year. This year's Business Person of the Year will be honored during the Chamber's Installation Dinner, scheduled for Jan. 25, 6pm at the Fiesta Resort Hibiscus Hall. The Installation

Dinner is when a new set of of- Alex Youn, Stars Sands Plaza; ficers officially assume their posts on the board of directors.

The 2013 nominees are Norman T. Tenorio, Pacifica Insurance; Nick Nishikawa, Hyatt Regency Saipan; John Baldwin, Bridge Capital, LLC; Patricia T. Palacios, Tenorio Enterprises;

Guy Pudney, Marianas Pacific Distributors; and Marcie Tomokane, Bank of Guam.

Nominations were held over the last three weeks and criteria for selection to receive the award include community involvement and contributions,

business longevity, support for local workforce and participation in Chamber activities.

Last year the Saipan Chamber of Commerce recognized two winners of the annual award, Marcia E. Ayuyu, R.J. Corp.; and AnthonyPellegrino (deceased), Saipan Sea Ventures. (SCC)



1 - (Center) Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and Nicole M. Torres (right) pose for a photo after Torres' swearing in to the Disctrict Court. Also in the photo is Chief Justice Alexandro Castro (far left), and Priscilla and William Torres (far right) flanked by other family members and friends.

Torres sworn into NMI District Court

By THOMAS A. MANGLONA II CORRESPONDENT

Nicole M. Torres was sworn earlier this week to the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands by Chief Judge Ramona V. Man-

glona. Torres, who was admitted to the NMI Bar in October 2013, will now be able to practice in the CNMI's federal court.

"I am honored to be sworn in to the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, and look for-

ward to serving the people of the NMI in a broader capacity," she told the Saipan Tribune.

Torres earned her bachelor's degree at the University of San Francisco and her juris doctor degree from the University of Hawaii, Richardson School of Law. Torres, a proud alumna of Saipan's Grace Christian Academy, hopes that local high school students stay focused and pursue their dreams—as she did.

Torres considers this as taking "the next step" as an attorney in the CNMI.

She is the daughter of William and Priscilla Torres.



BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTLITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a business meeting at 10:00 a.m. on January 23, 2014 at the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) Conference Room, located in Room# 104 of the CDA Building on Beach Road San Jose, to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Ms. Lillian Tenorio, Esq., who serves as counsel to the Commission's regulatory consultant, at 670-234-7850.

AGENDA

1. Administrative matters:

- a. Call to order; approval of agenda; determination of quorum
- b. Approval of minutes of December 10, 2013 business meeting
- c. Administrative order Supplemental Rules -Review of Customer Complaints

2. Docket 13-01: CUC Electric Division

Deliberation on the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's July 5, 2013 petition for rate relief, as amended, including the docket record and Hearing Examiner's December 24, 2013 report.

- 3. Other business
- 4. Public comments



LEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 a 2:00 p.m. at the MVA Conference Room San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) Preliminary Matters

- 1. Call to Order
- Roll Call
- 3. Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes December 10, 2013

Public Comments Committee Reports 3)

- 1. Finance
 - 2. Personnel
- **New Business**
 - Air Service Support for Wuhan, Tianjin 1.
 - and Hangzhou, China Destination Enhancement - PDM Sound System

 - Vladivostok Russia Office launch 3. MITT Moscow
 - SITT Novosibirsk

Old Business

- Miscellaneous/Announcements
- **Executive Session**
- Adjournment
- Marian Aldan-Pierce Chair, MVA Board of Directors



January 17, 2006

A tearful homecoming

It was a tearful but nonetheless joyful homecoming for seven CNMI soldiers on Sunday night at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport. These battle-hardened men had a hard time keeping their emotions in check when they saw their families, but they could not help but weep when they saw SSG Wilgene T. Lieto's mother, Julie, among the crowd. Sgt. Lieto, along with SPC Derence Jack, were killed in Iraq in October last year. Specialists Ferdinand Inoke, Frank Pangelinan, Winfred Camacho, Peter Camacho, Jeffrey Diaz, Roland Aizon, and Joseph Borja all safely made it back to Saipan Sunday night.

Appointees told to undergo drug test

Cabinet officials within the new Fitial administration may keep or lose their appointments depending on the result of drug tests. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in a Cabinet meeting yesterday reminded his key appointees to undergo drug testing. The \$35.50 testing fee will be borne by each Cabinet member. "It's a new administration and the governor wants to start fresh. He wants all his Cabinet members to be drug-tested. We want to show that everybody is responsible, that we don't have anybody using illegal narcotics on our staff," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

January 17, 2007

'NMI didn't act on wage board'

American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleomavaega yesterday faulted the CNMI for allegedly failing to come under the umbrella of federal labor law. This failure, he said, has landed the Northern Marianas in a totally different situation from American Samoa in terms of the minimum wage hike debate. Speaking in defense of the minimum wage system in the U.S. territory, Faleomavaega said that American Samoa has been under the Fair Labor Standards Act since 1938. Although exempt from federal wage floors, American Samoa is bound by minimum wage rates determined by Special Industry Committees, which were established by FLSA to phase low-wage industries to the minimum statutory wage. The Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor continues to conduct Special Industry Committees every two years in American Samoa to determine minimum wage increases, he said.

US immigration optional, says ex-negotiator

Former Covenant negotiator Benjamin T. Manglona disagrees with the U.S. efforts to change local rules and extend its control over CNMI labor and immigration but concedes that the local wage should reach federal level and that federal immigration is "optional." "I wish to call on the U.S. to honor the sanctity of the Covenant. It's a shame for America to tamper with it. I'm calling on the U.S. to not start changing those that were originally agreed on," said Manglona, a former Rota mayor and former member of the Marianas Political Status Commission, which negotiated the Commonwealth's status with the U.S. in the '70s. In a recent interview, Manglona said that both parties "agreed on cheap labor cost" in the CNMI.

January 17, 2008

Minute share of tourism pie

The Northern Marianas' projected arrivals from Japan comprise just a little over 1 percent of the total Japanese expected to travel overseas this year. JTB Corp., a top travel management company in Japan, forecasts that 17.35 million Japanese will visit overseas destinations in 2008. The Marianas Visitors Authority says the islands can expect about 200,000 Japanese visitors during the same period. MVA's projection is based on the current availability of 21 flights from three Japanese cities, which bring in 4,634 seats a week, as well as a load factor of 85 percent.

Fitial forms new economic development commission

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has created a new commission that will focus on mapping out a comprehensive economic strategy for the Commonwealth. Called the Commission on Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, the 18-member group will conduct its first meeting on Jan. 18, 2008, at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill. The Governor's Office said the Commission on CEDS will be prepared to comply with the Economic Development Administration Reform Act, Public Law 105-393, and to serve as one of several guides for economic development in the CNMI.

Tinian Marianas Leo Club to be chartered Saturday

Tinian Marianas Leo Club, an Club stands for Leadership Exorganization for 12- to 18-yearold youth sponsored by Tinian Marianas Lions Club, will be chartered tomorrow, Jan. 18, at the Tinian High School cafeteria.

TLMC guiding Lion Paula Madriaga said 27 youths signed up for the club, which will be led by president Ellimae Almogela. TLMC charter president Liz Hofschneider serves as its adviser.

He said the "Leo" in Leo

perience Opportunity. He said the organization is a younger version of the Lions Club, which will serve their partner in community activities.

Guam district governor Annabelle Dancel and Leo coordinator Margie Nicolas will fly to Tinian on Jan. 18 to grace the occasion. Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero will be the guest speaker.

Ten new Lion members will

Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Vilma San Nicolas, John Cepeda, Corazon Cepeda, Teresita Sanchez, Teresita Dela Cruz, Pinky Jocelyn Villagomez, Josephine Tagiam, Jonah Lagota, and Mario Almogela.

The group will fly the next day to attend the Region 2 Lions Medical mission on Saipan at Mt. Carmel Social Hall from 8am to 12noon. The mission is led by region chair Ruth Torrecampo.

Leo clubs are an official activity of Lions Clubs International that encourages young men and women to serve others in their community and around the world. Leo clubs are sponsored by local lions clubs and may be either school-affiliated or

also be inducted. They are community based. Its activities include regular meetings, service projects and social functions.

young people in 139 coun- and to call themselves Leos. tries are proud to volunteer to

In total, more than 150,000 serve their local communities (Mark Rabago)



NEW GRADUATE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Jake Aaron Tomokane Liwanag, third from right, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada Las Vegas on Dec. 17, 2013. Shown here with the new graduate are, from left, brother Dane Palacios, father Pepe T. Liwanag, mother Rose Tomokane Liwanag, sister Joan Ashley T. Liwanag, and brother Joey Duenas.

Regions 2 Lions to hold Health Fair this Sunday

Lions Clubs International District 204 announced that its Region 2 Lions will hold its annual Health Fair this Sunday, Jan. 19, from 8am to 12pm at the Daidai Social Hall of the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

The health fair is open to the public. Services provided will include blood pressure testing, sugar/glucose testing, hearing and vision checks, eye health awareness, cancer awareness, and general health awareness.

Sponsors of the health fair like Foremost Foods Saipan will also be giving away Foremost Milk on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Regions 2 Lions held its Health Fair last April 2013 and a total of 258 individuals availed of the medical services.

Now on its fourth year, the medical mission is an annual event that is part of the Region 2 Lions Club's community service. (Saipan Tribune)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



A belated happy birthday goes out Leona Ann! Wishing we were all with you to celebrate your special day. May the Lord guide you in every way and step of your life. Greetings coming from Mom, Dad, Brandon, Quianny, Britney, and Bryanna



Happy birthday to the best man and father in the world, Floyd Mafnas Mendiola! May you continue to be blessed with love, happiness, and kindness in the many years to come. Greetings come from your loved ones.

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10 FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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MEMBE

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Gusty headwinds of 2014

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



e've been floored by the gusty headwinds of the deepening fiscal impotence at home. This disastrous phenomenon is not only felt in government but most critically among households struggling to endure mind-numbing increases in the cost of living. The added costs have significantly reduced the buying power of families by more than 105 percent.

With livelihood of the multitude slated to deteriorate further, appalling that people at the helm are seemingly oblivious to the deepening mess. Its inaction exacerbates the mess by effectively shackling economic growth, destroying the economic freedom of our children.

Leadership suffers from some weird paralysis, seemingly clueless on what needs to be done and dead stuck in irrelevant village level provincialism. Some pretend to know what you're discussing or palm you off with weak-kneed views or otherwise evasive of substantive issues as he/she circles the car, looking for the key lodged in the ignition since time immemorial.

Did anybody recognize the exodus of foreign capital (about \$7 billion) in recent past and its ultimate negative consequence against the local economy? How do we replace it and isn't this grand negligence the very reason the CNMI's 2013 revenue was a paltry \$126 million?

Why is Kilili congratulating retiring chief architect of the CNMI's economic annihilation, Rep. George Miller, for exiting Congress? Where has Kilili parked his sense of history and how Miller completely destroyed a fragile island economy? Is the vicious labor champion and ruinous liberal progressive worthy of indigenous praise after sinking the livelihood of our people to subterranean abject poverty? Nothing can be further from the truth.

CUC's unstable power rates have forced a good many small marginal businesses to put on shutters. Ratepayers in the villages cringe amidst other hefty increases that have robbed them of more than 100 percent of their buying power. Has anyone burned the midnight oil to address and resolve the economic mess? It's all in the combined pile of incompetence!

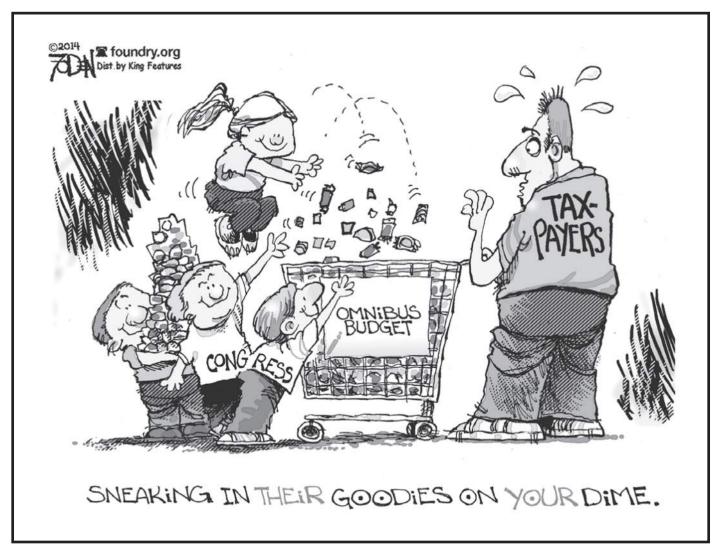
It's hope vs hope

Simple villagers hang on to "hope versus hope." One leans on guarded optimism that leadership would quickly resolve to resetting buttons on policy decisions to rein in fresh batch of investments.

We thirst for better days whenever the term "investment" enters our mind or daily conversations. After all, investment is the lifeblood of economic growth. The value of tomorrow's output is a function of today's investments in infrastructure, establishment of research center, strengthening of our educational system with definition; strong legal system; manufacturing; training and lasting alternative energy.

The purpose of investment is to create value and wealth, a process that fosters higher standard of living. Economic prosperity leads to opportunities for more jobs and revenue generation. We could talk *ad nauseam* what a healthy economy brings to a country or the adversity devastating the poor in a very anemic or sickly economy.

See GUSTY on Next Page



2014 is our climate moment

ew leaders can say that the decisions taken in 2014 will play a big part in determining whether their country will still grace the world map at the end of this century. I can. Lying at an average of just two meters above sea level, my tiny atoll nation stands at the precipice, threatened existentially by the gathering storm called climate change.

The year just passed must surely have settled whatever debate, if any, still remained on the science of climate change. The world's biggest and most expert group of climate scientists, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, found that it is now "unequivocal" that human activity is warming our planet, and that many of the environmental changes we are currently experiencing are unprecedented for millennia. As U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said to an audience in my country late last year, "the science is clear, it is irrefutable, and it is alarming."

In the Marshall Islands, 2013 was a particularly difficult year. In May, our northern atolls suffered through an unprecedented drought, which forced my government to declare a state of disaster. Just six weeks later, our capital, Majuro, was hit by a king tide and rising seas that flooded the airport runway and many nearby homes, including my own. Then in November, we gasped and prayed as the devastating Typhoon Haiyan smashed into our neighbors in Palau and the Philippines, killing 6,000 people and destroying close to one million homes. Nearly 2,000 people are still unaccounted for.

While the Pacific is perhaps the region most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, this story is fast becoming a global one. In October, Cyclone Phailin battered India's eastern coastline and, during the Christmas just passed, the United Kingdom was brought to a standstill by fierce winds, driving rains and power blackouts. Just a little more than a year after Superstorm Sandy, scientists are already predicting 17 Atlantic hurricanes for 2014—this would be 15 more than last year, and the highest number since records began. Climate disasters are fast becoming the new norm right around the world.

Despite all these warnings and the knowledge that we have the economic means and technologies to accelerate the necessary shift to clean and green development, the fight against climate change is unfortunately suffering from a misplaced hope that we still have plenty of time to act, or that the proverbial silver bullet is just around the corner. In reality, time is already up.

In 2014, world leaders must finally rise to this challenge. Focusing exclusively on talks to conclude a new global climate agreement in 2015 in Paris is not a risk we can afford to take, not least because that agreement is not due to come into effect until 2020. As scientists have told us, global emissions must peak THIS decade if we are to have a realistic chance of avoiding the worst of climate change's impacts. It is time for us all to live up to our own lofty rhetoric, and actually do what is necessary to slow and eventually reverse the pollution of our atmosphere, in turn curbing global warming and the

By CHRISTOPHER J. LOEAK

The Huffington Post

Christopher J. Loeak is the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and current chair of the Pacific Islands Forum.



rising seas that threaten to engulf my homeland.

Last September, the leaders of the Pacific decided to do just that.

Gathered in Majure for the 44th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders'

Gathered in Majuro for the 44th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting, we adopted the Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership, committing ourselves to be "Climate Leaders," and listed a set of commitments to urgently phase down greenhouse gas emissions and embrace the switch to renewable energy. It is the kind of leadership that has the tiny countries of Niue, the Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu striving to achieve 100 per cent renewable energy by 2020, and my own government to fully solarize the power for each and every one of our outer atoll island communities.

While these examples of Pacific leadership help to set the right tone, they of course will not be enough to bend the trajectory of global emissions set by the world's high-emitting countries and companies. For this reason, the Majuro Declaration challenged all governments, businesses and organizations to join our call for climate leadership, and register their own commitments to new and more ambitious climate action. While we are pleased with the support the Declaration has received so far from beyond the membership of the Pacific Islands Forum—including the listing of commitments by the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union and the U.S. State of Hawaii—we are now looking to others to follow their lead.

With the urgency of the climate crisis intensifying with each passing day, the UN Secretary-General's invitation to world leaders to attend a climate change summit in New York this September could not have come soon enough. Learning from the Copenhagen experience, the Secretary-General sees his 2014 summit as a stage to announce new collaborations and initiatives to accelerate action now, and not simply as a podium for countries to "commit to commit" ahead of Paris.

As Ban Ki-moon said himself in Warsaw in November, the summit must "propel us forward through concrete action" towards 2015. This is why 2014 must not merely be a "Year of Climate Action," as Mr. Ban has labeled it, but rather a "Year of New Climate Action." In other words, we need to commit to do more now than we have committed to previously, including a new wave of climate

See 2014 on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions con-

sisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Escaping the glitter's routines

ere's one of my favorite quotes, pretty much my mantra when I flee to the beach to avoid my worldly concerns:
"I am weary of the whole dreary deadening structured mess we have built into such a glittering, topheavy structure that there is nothing left to see but the glitter, and the brute routines of maintaining it."

That's from Travis McGee, a fictional character penned into life by the late John D. MacDonald. To a dedicated fan of that novel series, Travis' cynical, insightful, and irreverent wit made him seem more real than most real people are. Well, at least more real than the workaday drones you leave behind when you flee the Big City for Saipan.

McGee lived aboard a houseboat at slip F-18 at Bahia Mar Marina, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The marina does, in fact, exist, and I once made a pilgrimage to it. Slip F-18 was marked with a small plaque, and, in my case, nothing else, since I neglected to take my camera.

I tried to build a mental image of McGee there, but all I could envision was McGee on Saipan. Saipan is far more exotic that Ft. Lauderdale, so we do justice to McGee's romantic, devilmay-care lifestyle.

McGee was a professional adventurer, of sorts, who would enjoy a beach burn life when he had no projects boiling, and who would

GUSTY

From Page 10

The latter scenario is where the CNMI is situated today. Appalling that here at home suspect measures have been introduced to address the symptom rather than the underlying cause of economic dystopia—where nothing works. Do we have the courage to begin rebuilding the economic foundation and pillars of the CNMI or do we don the role of an ostrich, burying our heads in the sand once more that results in the persistent deepening of the hardship and destruction of the livelihood of "we the people"? Hasn't the cost of living quadrupled this year?

The local government's cumulative deficit is about \$561 million. Revenue collection last fiscal year was a meager \$126 million. We need not analyze what it means for it's a clear tale of financial disaster at home. Let's exit the appalling corrosive attitude of neglect that only sinks the demise of families Marianas-wide. Are policymakers (both sides of the street on the hill) ready to make a difference or simply waltz lazily on the dance floor of fatal *mañana*?

You the taxpayer could easily add up the pile of increases against your wallet in obligations that kicked in this year. It amounts to more than 105 percent against your income that remains the same all these years. It isn't very encouraging, is it?

Leadership: It's about our people

How do we ease the economic hardship families and private industries have to endure since recent past? A major policy decision—the quickest exit if you will—rests with alternative energy.

CUC's foot-dragging fancy for more studies into solar and geothermal energy is the perfect bureaucratic tool to prolonging the hardship and agony in the villages. Isn't CUC's utility cost a major deterrent to investment? The exodus of some \$7 billion in foreign capital would attest to this.

To follow CUC's usual bureaucratic paradigm to engage more studies on alternative energy is to prolong the agony of a myriad of increases from power bills to recent spikes in health premiums, impending spikes in food cost while enduring stagnant salaries and other costs. Indeed, incompetent bureaucrats get their hefty fill while the 99.9 percent in the villages yearn for some respite to ease the deepening filial hardship all over. The issue requires leadership!

Is it hard understanding that there hasn't been any major investments here since 2005? A lot has gone wrong in our tiny paradise. Incomprehensible the lack of urgency to work on measures that address the economic and fiscal disaster at home. Lest we forget, even empires crumble.

The emplacement of a certain alternative energy plan would set the stage for lasting investments and place the CNMI on the permanent road to economic recovery.

The Department of the Interior recently awarded the State of Maryland \$7 million to buy some 80,000 acres of land for an off-shore wind farm. Two areas in the Texas panhandle are building wind turbine farms in addition to other states that have found this form of alternative energy as the thing of the future. We should guide its introduction and permanent installation on the islands.

have all manner of adventures when various capers came his way. He was the ultimate freelancer, a beach and maritime version of a private eye or operative-for-hire.

He had a taste for beautiful, if sometimes troubled, women. He had a distaste for cheesy real estate developers, greedy vulgarity, corruption, and much of the mundane nit-wittery of modern life; but he wasn't a carping whiner about it. His best friend and sidekick, Meyer, was an economist who, like McGee, was an independent thinker. Meyer's erudition added some polish to McGee's sometimes rough-hewn street smarts.

I'm not generally a fan of fiction. In fact, with the exception of the Travis McGee series (21 books), I doubt I've got more than 30 novels on my shelves. I hide the McGee collection so people don't try to borrow them (don't even ask), but I'm sure the Commonwealth has some Travis McGee fans. McGee adds some Jimmy Buffet seaside zest to the old hard-bitten detective genre.

As for author John D. McDonald, he held an M.B.A. from Harvard, and was also an Army officer in WWII, discharged as a lieutenant colonel.

Though he had the skids greased for success in business life, he instead pursued his interest in writing. He started out by churning out pulp fiction, some of which I've managed to buy from used bookstores and, yeah, it was pretty pulpy pulp. As near as I can figure, it was 19 years from his first published piece (1945) to the publication of his first Travis McGee book (1964). He wrote a lot of other books, too, but the Travis McGee series is certainly what he's famous for. MacDonald passed away in 1986.

McGee's philosophical soliloquies are famous. Google will point you to various compilations of pithy quotes. I always assumed these were the reason for the success of the series. But just to make sure,

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



I called an old friend who is also a McGee fan.

"Actually, the appeal of the McGee books is the escapism," said my friend, who pointed out that McGee didn't have a boss, or a job, or dependents, or any other encumbrances in life. McGee had won his houseboat in a poker match, and he owned his car free and clear, so he only had to work for slip-rental and beer (actually, gin for McGee) money. He was a man who lived by his gumption and reputation, had a cadre of loyal and interesting friends, and, what's more, lived in a place he found intrinsically enjoyable.

I don't know about winning a boat, but, aside from that, I've known folks on Saipan who have come pretty close to living that ideal.

The books are still easily available in paperback. The list price is often around \$8

This isn't the first time I've written of McGee, but it's been a few years so I decided to mention the series again. I'm mostly rehashing some earlier observations.

There's no shame in that, though, since some things, such as the wisdom of Travis McGee, actually wear better as time goes by. After all, the glitter and the routines of modern life are not getting any lighter.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Implement the 10MW solar power plant now

This is an open letter to Mr. Allan Fletcher, CUC executive director. Mr. Fletcher, since the interconnection study is done by your consultant, there is no more reason for you and your agency not to complete the contract negotiation with American Capital Energy for the winning proponent on the first request for proposal for the financing, development, and operation of 10MW of solar photovoitic electrical generation to be installed in Saipan and Rota. ACE was properly evaluated and was ranked responsive and ranked No. 1, among other proponents. CUC then invited ACE for a best and final offer with CUC, and both parties agreed with a rate to be sold to CUC at \$0.18/KWH.

ACE will provide the funding to build and operate the power

plant at no cost to CUC.

I don't understand why you're telling the public that price of kWh is expensive when all CUC has to do is buy the power through a power purchase agreement. Stop scaring the public that \$0.18/KWH is expensive when CUC's current dinosaur diesel engines are costing the consumers an arm and a leg in the amount of over \$0.45/KWH.

Stop the study and complete the ACE contract negotiation so the people of Saipan can realize some savings in their electric bills!

Vicente M. Sablan

Kagman III, Saipan

2014

From Page 10

action that sees us peaking global emissions before 2020.

It is in this spirit that we welcome positive signals from China as it prepares for new emissions standards and working carbon markets under its next Five Year Plan, and ongoing efforts by President Obama to implement his Climate Action Plan, including the phasing out of coal power stations in the United States. In contrast, Japan's decision to renege on its 25 percent emission reduction target and the recent carbon price policy reversals in Australia are unhelpful blips on the otherwise steady course toward the low-carbon world economy. Everyone needs to play their part, especially those with the biggest carbon footprint, and those who count among their closest friends the vulnerable countries that will bear the brunt of their polluting ways.

For our part, we look forward to September's Summit with a renewed sense of hope, and a strong resolve to use 2014's ministerial meetings and diplomatic opportunities to develop new ideas and forge new partnerships that make a real dent in emissions now. One critical area of focus must be the energy sector, which is currently responsible for some two-thirds of global emissions.

While renewable energy is already the fastest growing source of power and expected to increase by 40 percent in the next five years, we need to quickly accelerate the transition to clean, green and more efficient energy systems. Having recently achieved a record 59 percent peaking in the renewables contribution to the power grid in

Europe's biggest economy, Germany has shown us that it can be done. And the quicker it is done, the better and cheaper it will be. As the International Energy Agency has told us, for every one dollar not invested now in new clean energy, it will cost us more than \$4 after 2020 to compensate for the missed opportunity to reduce emissions this decade.

While understanding the need and accepting the logic to act now, we continue to emit and emit. There are signs of progress, and yet humanity has the world barreling toward 4 degrees or more of dangerous global warming. Our window to secure a climate future capable of sustaining my country's culture, its dignity and its territory is closing quickly.

Leaders must come to New York in September with their sights set high, and with bold new announcements that get us back on a pathway to a safe climate future. The European Union could play a catalytic role by recording internationally that it will easily overachieve on its current target to reduce emissions by 20 percent by 2020, and that this will enable deeper and more ambitious EU cuts under a new global agreement. Others would surely follow suit.

It is increasingly clear to political leaders of all persuasions that if they are prepared to set out a bold vision for ambitious climate action, their constituencies will stand with them, including big business, and they are all prepared to do the necessary work. The release of updated and more alarming scientific data from the IPCC later this year should reinforce the political resolve to act. If the science and summits of 2014 don't finally turn the tide, it is difficult to see what will. This is the battle of our generation, and 2014 is our moment.

12 FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼76°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph

▲ 87° ▼ 76°



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

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Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

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Yesterday's Satellite Image



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Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 66	₹55
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London	Showers	▲ 50	₹45
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 82	▼ 47
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 82	₹73
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 70	▼ 55
Miami	Sunny	▲ 68	▼51
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46	▼33
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47	▼36
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 49	▼ 39
Pusan	Windy	▲ 46	₹28
Rome	Showers	▲ 56	▼ 53
Salem	Sunny	▲ 55	▼31
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 71	₹43
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Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N150E to 19N143E. The front continues as a nearly stationary front from 19N143E through a circulation centered at 18N140E to beyond 130E at 12N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are seen along and up to 450 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough curves east-southeastward from a circulation centered northeast of Mindanao near 12N127E to 2N152E to finally end at EQ160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present west of Koror or west of line from 11N130E to 5N135E to EQ135E. A shear line extends west-southwestward from beyond 21N180E to end just west of the Marianas at 16N143E. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 100 miles north of this boundary. Converging trade winds are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across eastern Micronesia within 100 miles of a line from 6N158E to 6N176E. This area lies just south of Pohnpei and Majuro but includes Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Yap and south of Guam within 115 miles of a line extending from 11N140E to 6N143E to 3N150E

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7:49 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM	Tuesday	10:12 PM	9:46 AM	

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The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRÁVELOGUE** Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. ■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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the name of contact person, and a phone number ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to

next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 3, 2013

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UA5038/179		10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	II:IUpm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6
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LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA Fr	equency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily				'
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian	. 45	, 55	D 1	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103 FRE 105	7:30 8:00	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:10 8:50	Daily Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
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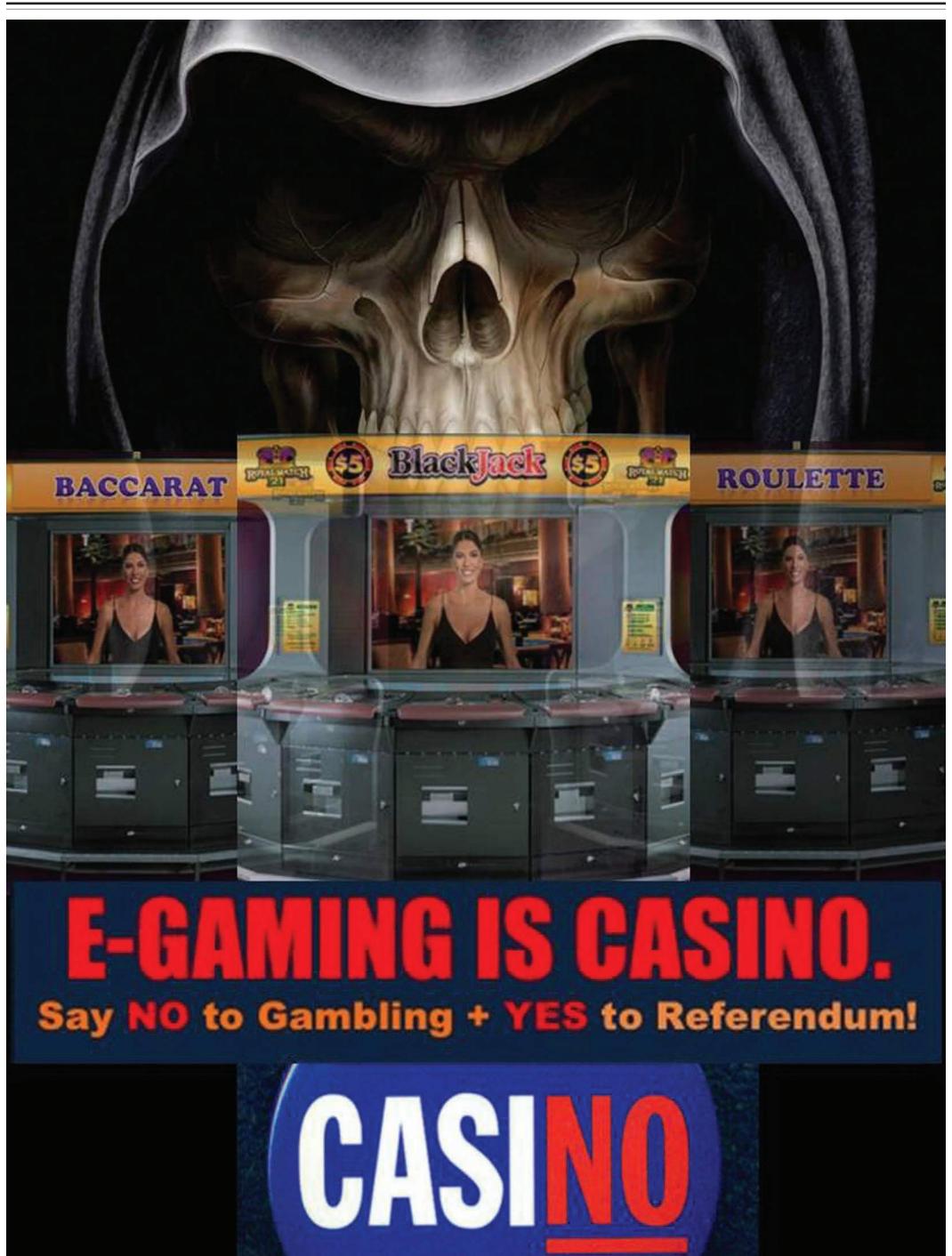
NMI CRIME **STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone Log on to the internet at

www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 **13**



The misuse of American might, and the price it pays

he U.S. military is like the highly skilled, gadget-toting contractor who promises to give your kitchen a nifty makeover in no time whatsoever. Here's the guy you can count on to get the job done. Just look at those references! Yet by the time he drives off months later, the kitchen's a shambles and you're stuck with a bill several times larger than the initial estimate. Turns out the job was more complicated than it seemed. But what say we take a crack at remodeling the master bath?

That pretty much summarizes the American experience with war since the end of the Cold War. By common consent, when it comes to skills and gadgets, U.S. forces are in a league of their own. Yet when it comes to finishing the job on schedule and on budget, their performance has been woeful.

Indeed, these days the United States absolves itself of any responsibility to finish wars that it starts. When we've had enough, we simply leave, pretending that when U.S. forces exit the scene, the conflict is officially over. In 2011, when the last American troops crossed from Iraq into Kuwait, President Obama proudly declared that he had made good on his campaign promise to end the Iraq war. Sometime late this year, when the U.S. terminates its combat role in Afghanistan, he will waste no time consigning that war to the past as well.

Yet the Iraq war did not end when the United States withdrew. Even with Washington striving mightily to ignore the fact, the violent ethno-sectarian struggle for Iraq triggered by the 2003 U.S.led invasion continues. In recent days, events such as al-Qaida's ferocious welcome-to-the-new-year assault on the cities of Fallouja and Ramadi—roughly the equivalent of a Confederate army laying siege to Gettysburg sometime during the presidency of Ulysses S. Grant—have made it impossible to pretend otherwise.

Events in Afghanistan are likely to follow a similar trajectory. No serious person thinks that the war there—launched even earlier, back in 2001—will end just because U.S. troops are finally packing up to go home. No doubt the American public will forget Afghanistan as quickly as it forgot Iraq. Yet as with Iraq war, the struggle to determine Afghanistan's fate will continue, its duration and outcome no less uncertain.

The truth is something few people in the national security establishment are willing to confront: Confusing capability with utility, the United States knows how to start wars but has seemingly forgotten how to conclude them. Yet concluding war on favorable terms—a concept formerly known as victory—is the object of the exercise. For the United States, victory has become a lost art. This unhappy verdict applies whether U.S. forces operate conventionally (employing high-tech "shock and awe" tactics) or unconventionally ("winning hearts and minds").

As a consequence, instead of promoting stability—perhaps the paramount U.S. interest not only in the Islamic world but also globally—Washington's penchant for armed intervention since the end of the Cold War, and especially since 9/11, has tended to encourage just the opposite. In effect, despite spilling much blood and expending vast amounts of treasure, U.S. military exertions have played into the hands of our adversaries, misleadingly lumped together under the rubric of "terrorists."

How can we explain this yawning gap between intention and outcomes? Fundamentally, a pronounced infatuation with armed might has led senior civilian officials, regardless of party, and senior military leaders, regardless of service, to misunderstand and misapply the military instrument. Force is good for some things, pre-eminently for defending what is already yours. Not content to defend, however, the United States in recent decades has sought to use force to extend its influence, control and values.

In a world divided between haves and have-nots, between postmodern and pre-modern, and between those for whom God is dead and those for whom God remains omnipresent, expecting coercion to produce reconciliation, acceptance or submission represents the

By ANDREW J. BACEVICH

Los Angeles Times

Andrew J. Bacevich is a professor of history and international relations at Boston University. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



height of folly. So force employed by the United States in faraway places serves mostly to inflame further resistance, a statement that is true whether we're talking about putting "boots on the ground" or raining down Hellfire missiles from the heavens.

What then is to be done? That which Washington is least capable of undertaking: Those charged with formulating policy must think anew. For starters, that means lowering expectations regarding the political effectiveness of war, which is demonstrably limited.

Take force off the metaphorical table to which policymakers regularly refer. Rather than categorizing violence as a preferred option, revive the tradition of treating it as a last resort. Then get serious about evaluating the potential for employing alternative forms of power, chiefly economic and cultural, to advance American interests. The result won't be a panacea. But it won't cost as much as open-ended war. And rather than creating new problems, this alternative approach just might solve some old ones.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A poor compensation plan

The article "PSS bares salary scale of personnel" is an interesting manifestation of a poor compensation plan.

First, PSS must demonstrate how it developed and justified its existing pay plan for its certified and non-certified personnel. If its present compensation plan is not justified, then PSS may have been overcompensating its personnel, thus its human resource system could be out of order. Any compensation scheme must follow a bell shape structure in that the bulk of all personnel should be within the average or median distribution.

Second, PSS must consider compressing its compensation schedule to a manageable and economical basis. It may consider a different approach such as a broadband pay design. In my opinion, PSS personnel system should consider introducing a pay scale of not

more than 13 pay levels. Consolidating the pay scale would pave the way for pay-for-performance basis and would allow PSS to use its pay practices to reward good and above-average performance outcome of its employees.

Then again, if the science of human resource management is absent as a considered and reasoned approach to PSS' compensation needs, continuing on with the present pay practices is even more problematic. So, for PSS to say that its present pay plan is in order, it must demonstrate that it was not arbitrarily set and historical data and study are available and could be produced to substantiate the sufficiency and appropriateness of the pay plan. What the pay of any public employee in the CNMI government should account for are the know-how, problem solving, and accountability of each position utilized by all jurisdictions. Hence, the compensation plan should bear these factors in its design and implementation, while meeting statutory mandates.

Francisco R. Agulto Kannat Tabla, Saipan



DFS Saipan donates over \$3K to MTEC

DFS Galleria Saipan on Tuesday donated over \$3,000 to the Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically or MTEC.

According to MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, the funds donated by DFS Saipan were raised during the DFS Educathon event held last year.

DFS selected MTEC to support its Tourism Education Outreach Program it conducts in CNMI public schools. The primary focus of the education outreach is to teach students the importance of tourism in the CNMI.

"On behalf of the Marianas Tourism Education Council, we are grateful to DFS Saipan for their contribution to the MTEC Education Outreach Program. Their support will assist MTEC to continue educating our youth and the community about the importance of tourism in our islands," said Benavente.

DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce made the presentation to Benavente and MTEC board members during a check presentation Tuesday at the DFS Saipan office in Garapan.

Joining Aldan-Pierce and Benavente in the check presentation were MTEC directors Martin Duenas of Marianas Visitors Authority, James Nelson of Docomo Pacific, Larry Lee, and MTEC treasurer Chris Lubi of



Standing, from left, Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically director Martin Duenas of the Marianas Visitors Authority, DFS Galleria Saipan operation manager Marida Pensader, DFS Saipan HR manager Esther Ada, MTEC director James Nelson of Docomo Pacific, DFS Saipan general manager Bruch Lorange, MTEC director Larry Lee, and DFS Saipan manager Ben Babauta. Seated from left, MTEC treasurer Chris Lubi of Ernst & Young, DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce, and MTEC chair Vicky Benavente of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Ernst & Young. Also present were DFS Saipan manager Ben Babauta, DFS Saipan operations manager Marida Pensader, DFS Saipan HR manager Esther Ada, and DFS Saipan general manager Bruch Lorange.

Last year, MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority visited Koblerville, Tanapag, San Vicente, Dandan, San Antonio, William S. Reyes, and Garapan

elementary schools for its education outreach.

The MTEC presentation Marianas, jobs in tourism, and

how students can help support the industry.

Aside from its outreach, covered visitor profiles, how MTEC also provides informatourism helps the Northern tion on the various careers in the erybody's Business. 24/7 In the hospitality industry, and encour-

age their role as citizens to help keep the islands' environment clean and litter-free. Its theme last year was "Tourism Is Ev-670." (Mark Rabago)



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ADDENDUM NO. 1 1/13/14 **ITB14-GOV-044**

Repair/Replacement of the Mechanical Equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC), Saipan MP

The previously advertised, Invitation to Bid ("ITB") for the "Repair/Replacement of the Mechanical Equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center Project" has been amended. The specific amendment is to extend dateline for the bid submission. The ITB shall read as follows:

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB14-GOV-044, "Repair/Replacement of the Mechanical Equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center Project". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:00 AM ChST January 31, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 AM ChST January 31, 2014, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 31, 2014 and must be received no later than 9:00 AM ChST, February 11, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST February 12, 2014. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:00 AM ChST January 31, 2014.

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Capital Improvement Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer Technical Representative at (670)664-2375 or by fax at (670)664-2408.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PO Box 502149; Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 Fax: (670) 235-7147



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

- A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, <u>Saipan</u>, on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>January 29</u>, 20<u>14</u>, at <u>10:30 a.m.</u> on the application of <u>Sea</u> Touch, LLC, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed business that will engage in interactive marine activities, marine animal encounters and other associated activities, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.
- **B.** Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.
- C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at the CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan **Executive Director**

MT. CARMEL SCHOOL HONORS LIST

Mount Carmel School congratulates the following students for making it to the 2nd Quarter President's List and Honor Roll.

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

1ST GRADE
CAMACHO, Irie Kane H.
CASTRO, Kenneth S.
DUENAS, Quimari Liwerscheng B.
KAUTZ, Claire Regina G.
LOBO, Angelo T.
MALLABI Audrain Japanifar M. LOBO, Angelo T. MALLARI, Audrein Jennifer M. PALACIOS, Tricia J. PELEN, Cedric Benedict A. REYES, Chelsy Anne L. REYES, Chelsy Anne L.
SABLAN, Aaliyah Victoria B.
SABLAN, Kiana Cecilia N.
SASAMOTO, Hitomi Rosa S.
STEELE, Lyssa Rae P.
TAISACAN, Nevaeh Sky B.
TENORIO, Malina Rose B.
TOSKAS, Ari James
TRAVILLA, Arturo Rodrigo Z.

BANG, Leo Yoon BARCINAS, Alicia L. BLANCO, Elisa Ellen E. DAYRIT, Jenarisa Mae S. GAMAB, Gwen Tiffany D. GUERRERO, Ruben Antonio C. LAI, Li Sha'
MANGLONA, Aiyana Jade R.
MANGLONA, Aiyana Jade R.
MILITANTE, Ethan Jude C.
PROPST, Devin Jordan M.
REYES, Tiffany Geraldine M.
REYES, Ucente Jose
SABLAN, Andrew B.
SALAS, Raymana Owen D.
TAIMANAO, Jr. II, Joannes R.
TOLENTINO, Leyonne Alfred F.
TORRES, Maria Yoshie C.

3RD GRADE

CABRERA, Kyla Monique B DELA CRUZ, Kina M. GALANG, Raphael Christian P. GALANG, RAPINABL CHRISTIAN P. HUNTER, Brissa C. MUNA, Breanna S. OMAR, Salina Jacklyn I. ORTIZO, Brent Matthew E. SASAMOTO, YuriHana Rosa D.

4TH GRADE
BUCALIG, Fiona Marielle A.
CRUZANA, Daphne Rylee M.
DIAZ, Jeremiah Jerome H.
DUENAS, Monique Laura F.
MALLARI, Vaughn Andrei A.
MAREHAM, Jacob C. MENDIOLA, Alleah Marie R MENDIOLA, Altean Marie MUNA, Devon Tyler S. PELEN, Brandon Philip A. PROPST, Kiana Lei M. SABLAN, Vidal Jose B. STEELE, Richard Ramon P. TENORIO, Mariana B.

CASTRO, Coloma Agualin B. GALANG, Aldraine Angelo P.

6TH GRADE

BORJA, Kalea Lou B. BUCALIG, Francesca Marie A. BUENAVENTURA, Riley Anne O. DELEON GUERRERO, William Blake C. JAVIER, Lleyton Andre A.

RABANG, Katelyn A. REYES, Blake Anthony M. SANCHEZ, Ma. Charlize V.

BOBADILLA, Jan Emmanuel D. CASTRO, Rosa Engracia P. MACARANAS, Dayna Lou M. PANGELINAN, Rosalia Francine A.

8TH GRADE CATALMA, Ma. Clarinda Graziela A. LAZARO, Maria Christine M. LEE, Hee Joo MUNA, De'Jana Lennise S. PALACIOS, Michelle Lin TOSKAS, Jonelle Gwyneth USI, Monica Aira B.

9TH GRADE

PIH GRADE DELEON GUERRERO JR., Zeno C. DOCTOR, Jaqueline B. HIGUCHI, Kai ORTIZO, Michael Roy E. PALACIOS, Cheng Yang

ZHEN, Rui Hua Theresa Xu

10TH GRADE

IWAI, Emiri Angela JAVIER, Cathryn Jane A. PAK, Han Byeol

11TH GRADE

11TH GRADE
BABAUTA, Peter Thomas A.
CAMACHO, William DLG.
DELOS SANTOS, Savannah Lyn R.
KIM, Da Hyn
LAZARO, Maria Fe Andrea M.
LEE, Woo Ri (Esther)
ROMOLOR, Itchakomi Neiwoolim T.
SATO, Masami
SON, Jung Hyun (Tony)

12TH GRADE CAMACHO, Rikki Carmen R. CHE, Jasmine P. DELEON GUERRERO, Tasha Rae A. DEMAPAN, Carey Shiho N.
JUN, Bo Min
JUNG, Ju Won
KANG, Hyun Suk
LEBRIA, Kaylani R.
LEE, Sang Hwa
LIZAMA II, Leon Liang
MALITI, Angel S.
MANESE, Andrea Grace C.
TAYLOR, Amy M.
TOMOKANE, Franchesca Merced
WU, Ginny

HONOR ROLL

Students must have a GPA of 3.66 or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or NI.

1ST GRADE

LEE, Jamie MALLARI, Laizza Vianca A. MESA, Isaiah George F. NICHOLAS, Jalen Jeremiah B. PAMINTUAN, Manuel Vidal TAIMANAO, Aryana Carmen A.

BAO, Kevin Jia Qi DELA CRUZ, L'Wina Lynn DORONILA, Kyle Jay D.

3RD GRADE

BALDAZO, Keehara Nielsen V.

CAMACHO, Vidal Jose H. LAMMALHO, VIOLAI JOSE H.
MUNA, Sienna Jade B.
PALACIOS, Ryona Exsaleen S.
REYES, Tiara Maya I.
SABLAN, Mathew Adrian A.
SASAMOTO, Derek Moritaro S.
SAULOG, Cyrine May T.

ALDAVE, Lynette Anne D ALVAREZ, Robin Kyle M. CHONG, Kevin Daisuke M COMBINIDO, Jewel Monique M. GUERRERO, Christian Felix C. SCHWEIGER, Theresa Rose C. TENORIO, Joshua C. TRAVILLA, Kaia D.

5TH GRADE AYUYU, Maria Kanako E. HUNTER, Brandee C. KANG, Kevin MAREHAM, Zoe Kleui C. MESA, Noah Peter F. MINAMI, William Kazuki REYES, Kyana Frances D. SABLAN, Penelope F. SATO, Maaya TOMBOC, Reuben Christian O. TYQUIENGCO, Auriana Kayleeh

6TH GRADE KHANG, Agnes KIM, Yu Dam

7TH GRADE CUNANAN, Erika Gabrielle D. HAN, Louisa Sa IANG, Eric MANESE, Angelo Gabriel C. RAMIREZ, Reica Jucel A. TERLAJE, Maria Lael G.

8TH GRADE

CHA, Seung Hyun HAHN, Jonah B. KIM, Cosmos MELCHOR, Jeff Matthew B. TORRES, Cassidy Victoria C. VILLACRUSIS, Geuel Christian M.

9TH GRADE CUSHING, Arron C. HAN, Ya JUN, You Jin SANTOS, Joshua G.

BANG, Ji Eun (Andrea)
DELEON GUERRERO, Lance Vincente Q.
SOLEDAD, JAIME A.

11TH GRADE

KIM, Kyung M YOO, HELEN

12TH GRADE AYUYU, Ashley E. CABRERA, Victor Manuel A. CAMACHO, Kuino Benbar N. JUNG, Woon-ik (David) KAUTZ, Michelle KLOMKLOM, Sutratip KWON, Soon Hyung



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-007

ISLAND WIDE ROAD RESTORATION FOR WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Road Restoration for Waterline Repairs, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation, placing of flowable fill and asphalt to replace pavement areas cut by CUC to repair waterlines. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and DPW. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 7, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on January 30, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-007, Island Wide Road Restoration for Waterline Repairs" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 19. 2014, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 5, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water-Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than **February 10, 2014**.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

Executive Director Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Manager, Procurement & Supply Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Dead fruit bat found on Rota

A group of biologists surveying a site on the Water Cave road on Rota found a dead fruit bat last Thursday, Jan. 9.

The federally protected species was found hanging from a tree on the southern part of the island. Biologists on the scene also reported finding 15 fresh shell casings from a .22 caliber

According to a local official, the Water Cave road is actively used by poachers to kill fruit bats. This source said, "What is being currently monitored by the local law enforcement is inadequate. We need more security in that area."

CNMI DFW investigator Erwin Flores was called to the scene the same day to investigate. (Thomas A. Manglona II)

The dead fruit bat, seen hanging on the tree, was found dead last Thursday, Jan. 9.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Public investiture ceremony for Kim-Tenorio Friday next week

and

ment

tion.

Govern-

Investiga-

Following

the committee's

recommenda-

tion, the Senate

unanimously con-

firmed her as as-

sociate judge. On

Dec. 22, she was

commis-

The Commonwealth Judiciary announced yesterday that the public investiture ceremony for Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio will be held on Friday, Jan. 24, 2013, in the Supreme Court courtroom,

beginning at 10:30am.

On Oct. 3, 2013, Gov. Eloy S. Inos nominated Kim-Tenorio to fill the vacancy on the Superior Court bench. In December, Kim-Tenorio appeared before the

Senate's Committee on Execu-



sioned with Inos administering the oath of office. Kim-Tenorio served as the

duly

legal counsel for Inos. Prior to that, she served as the legal counsel for the CNMI lieutenant governor and the CNMI Legislature. She also spent time

tive Appointment in private practice.

In 1997, she earned her bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In May 2001, she graduated from New England School of Law with her juris doctor degree. She is licensed to practice law in five jurisdictions including the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Kim-Tenorio is the daughter of Yong Chan and Jin Soon Kim and has two siblings: Hea Joung Kim and Angela Kim. She is married to Perry John Pangelinan Tenorio and they have four sons: Justis, Sunho, Pedro, and Sunjoon. (NMI Judiciary)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Notice to CUC customers

As previously announced, CUC is currently experiencing a technical problem with its prepaid machine. The problem is expected to be fully resolved by Jan. 24. Until that time, prepaid tokens can be issued, but only in \$50 amounts. For those who cannot afford a \$50 token, special accommodations will be made. CUC apologizes for any inconvenience that this may cause. (CUC)

Navy training at Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Jan 21-24 from 8am to midnight. Meantime, the U.S. Coast Guard will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Jan 18-19, from 9am to 6:30pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operatorsare advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

DPS to block Marpi on Jan. 29

The Department of Public will be blocking off the northern part of the island, from Marpi north, on

Jan. 29, 2014, from approximately 12pm to 3pm. The purpose of this blockage is to dispose of a significant collection of unexploded ordnance that has been collected by the department's explosive response team. DPS is requesting all visitors to these popular areas of the island to make arrangements to visit either in the morning before the 12pm deadline or after the operation is completed at 3pm. Anyone with questions can contact the Explosives Response Team operational supervisor, Sgt. Anthony I. Macaranas, at 483-5818. (DPS)

House committee sets public hearing

The House Standing Committee on Education is inviting the general public of Saipan to a public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2014 at 6pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The purpose of this public hearing will be to discuss HLI 18-007, which proposes to amend Article 15, Section 2 of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the election of the members of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written or verbal comments on or before the date of the public hearing. Contact the Office of Rep. Roman C. Benavente if you have any questions regarding this public hearing and fax comments to (670) 664-8900 or email rep. ebenavente@gmail.com. (PR)

Approved CW-1 occupations info received via FOIA

The CNMI Target 2014 Task Force, in its effort to respond to U.S. Public Law 110-229's call for the transition of foreign workers, invoked the Freedom of Information Act requesting for information on approved CW-1 occupations/ positions. The combined data received for fiscal year 2012–2013

from Oct. 7, 2011 to Sept. 30, 2013, provides the task force the necessary information in order to plan and design training programs that will fill the pipeline of workers needed to sustain the CNMI's economy and to assist employers in securing employees first from among U.S. citizens and nationals residing in the CNMI, and if an adequate number of such workers are not available, from among legal permanent residents, including lawfully admissible citizens of the Freely Associated States.

This data will also assist the CNMI Scholarship and SHEFA programs in identifying CNMI college graduates that want to return home for employment opportunities while at the same time to assist the CNMI Department of Labor in accelerating employment placement services for registered unemployed citizens.

While appreciative of the data received, there are also concerns with respect to the enormous number of approved CW-1 visas without job codes/ job descriptions. This concern will be addressed to USCIS by the CNMI Secretary of Labor.

Employers are required to pay \$150 education fee for each beneficiary. These funds are for

purposes of providing training programs that will address the transition of foreign workers. The Northern Marianas College, Public School System, and Northern Marianas Trades Institute are currently the recipients of these training funds. (Office of the Governor)



USDOL PROVIDES TRAINING TO CNMI DOL

This partnership will help provide CNMI Department of Labor with the necessary knowledge to stay current with applicable federal wage and hour laws for positions covered under the Fair Labor Standards Act. This partnership will also enhance the enforcement powers of the CNMI DOL in a joint partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division in investigations based on jurisdictional or joint enforcement authorities. Rota and Tinian CNMI DOL enforcement officers were also part of the training sessions. The CNMI DOL is most appreciative to Patrick Candoleta, USDOL Wage and Hour Division Assistant District Director Guam & CNMI, and his Saipan team for providing the much needed training

Labor reviewing over 5,000 registered unemployed individuals with résumés

The CNMI Department of Labor website went online in 2005 to allow unemployed individuals to register for job placement assistance. To date, some 5,118 unemployed individuals with posted résumés have yet to be certified.

In its new effort to provide a better and accelerated service to the unemployed, Labor is actively reviewing and certifying these résumés and referring them to JVAs posted online that fits their qualifications. Em-

ployers will be seeing an increased number of CNMI DOL Employment Services qualified referrals looking for employment opportunities attached to their JVAs.

The website at the same time

will be undergoing major changes that will be more responsive with the use of technological system advances. These new transformation initiatives being implemented will reduce, if not remove, processes that are currently hindering the unemployed's need for an accelerated, responsive, and efficient service.

The CNMI DOL Employment Services Division kindly reminds unemployed registered individuals to go online at www.

marianaslabor.net to register, update their information, apply for jobs posted, or make contact with the Employment Services Division for assistance at 664-3190 or 322-0996. (Office of

Adora Mae Relevante Aque P.O. BOX 506274 Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. No.: (670) 989-0743

PETITIONER PRO SE IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLAND

By, Adora Mae

Relevante Aque,

mother

Civil Action In the Matter of Name # 14-0018 Tins Meirull Relevante **NOTICE OF** Islam.

Tins Meirull Relevante Islam, minor child by, Adora Mae Relevante Aque, petitioned the Court for an order legally changing her daughter's name from Tins Meirull Relevante

Islam to Tins Meirull Aclan Relevante.

PETITIONER.

Please take notice that a hearing in this matter will be held on the 20th day of February 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at the Commonwealth Superior Court on Saipan, CNMI courtroom 205A for the purpose therein set forth.

/S/ Clerk of the Above-Entitled Court

BRUCE L. MAILMAN, F0153 MAYA B. KARA, F0169 Saipan, MP 96950-8900 ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LPP MORTGAGE, LTD., CIVIL ACTION MICHAEL P. KILELEMAN and JULITA ANN TAGABUEL,

TO: JULITA ANN TAGABUEL fka JULITA T. KILELEMAN 155 Ireland Road Bayboro, North Carolina 28515 YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any

answer you wish to make to the Comp**l**aint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to MAILMAN & KARA, LLC, the intiff's attorneys, whose address is PMB 238 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing. Your answer should be in writing and filed with the

Clerk of this Court at Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear persona**ll**y unti**l** further notice If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this nons, judgment by defau**l**t may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Ry order of the above Court

/s/CLERK OF COURTS

DATED this 27th day of December, 2013

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER D'TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN P.O. Box 504340 SAIPAN, MP 96950 Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NOTICE OF FORI MICHAEL MANGLONA OGO and Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 22, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right and interests of Defendants in and to the following real property:

Lot No. 345 R 236, containing an area of 909 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 05, the original of which, was recorded on May 14, 1984 as Document No. 84-0751 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

1. Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale is ope to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2014, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. at the entrance to the Law Offices of S. 2:00 p.m. at the entrance to the Law Uffices of S. Joshua Berger, D'Torres Bldg, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, CMMI. Registration for the auction sale will begin at 1:45 p.m. 2. Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date

and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this dause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 30th day of December, 2013. /s/ Micheline W. Brel MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122 THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. POST OFFICE BOX 5222 SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 TEL: (670) 234-6547 • FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CIVIL ACTION JUAN L. EVANGELISTA,

Defendant

FIFTEENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that oursuant to a Second Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 2, 2010. I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:Tract 22845-19 (part of original Tract 22845-REM, A.H. 31), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2083/84, the original of which was recorded August 2, 1984, as Document No. 84-1398 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder. Saipan.

Date. Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 24, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale. DATED, this 24th day of December,

/s/MICHAEL A WHITE Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122 THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 TEL: (670) 234-6547 • FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

POST OFFICE BOX 5222

DIEGO A SASAMOTO and ANICIA S. SASAMOTO,

CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0261

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter or October 9, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 736 situated in Kagman III. Sainan Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown or the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 14, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No 93-4182. the description therein being

incorporated herein by reference. Date. Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 24, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC. Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the

general public. Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of

DATED, this 24th day of December, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

the Governor) MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122 THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE,

POST OFFICE BOX 5222 SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 TEL: (670) 234-6547 • FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

LYDIA R. SASO, RYO SASO

and MARIANA R. CONCEPCION Defendants.

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

CIVIL

13-0211

TO: LYDIA R. SASO and RYO SASO,

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you $\begin{tabular}{ll} \end{tabular}$ hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to delive or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A WHITE LLC the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this mmons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the

Dated December 27, 2013 by order of the

Court:

/s/Clerk of Court

18 FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Fed: US economic growth healthy over holidays

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Federal Reserve survey shows economic growth remained healthy in most U.S. regions in late November and December, helped by gains in consumer spending and factory output.

Nine of the Fed's 12 banking districts described growth as moderate, according to the Beige Book survey released Wednesday. That's up from seven districts in October through early November. And two of those districts said growth had accelerated since the previous report.

Only two districts -- Boston and Philadelphia -- said growth was modest, while Kansas City said it "held steady."

Three-quarters of the districts said shoppers spent more over the winter holidays. And all but Kansas City said manufacturing production grew.

The Beige Book survey is based on anecdotal reports from businesses and will be considered along with other data when the Fed meets next Jan. 28-29.

The report showed little signs of the slowdown in hiring that the government reported last week. The Labor Department said Friday that employers added only 74,000 jobs last month, down from an average of 214,000 in the preceding four months.

The Fed survey, however, said two-thirds of the districts reported increases in hiring. That may bolster the view among many economists that December's hiring slowdown was temporary and partly the result of bad weather.

Still, weaker December job gains could lead the Fed to rethink its recent decision to pull back on some of its stimulus.

Fed policymakers decided last month to cut the monthly purchases to \$75 billion from \$85 billion and suggested it would further trim its buying

in future meetings. The bond purchases are intended to spur more borrowing and spending.

But Dana Saporta, an economist at Credit Suisse, said the report was positive enough to suggest that the Fed will continue reducing its purchases.

"We find nothing that threatens to divert the Fed from its current tapering path," she said.

There have been other signs that the economy is growing at a solid pace. Americans increased their spending at retailers in November and December at a faster pace than the previous year, according to the National Retail Federation.

Greater consumer spending is a key reason that most economists expect growth will top 3 percent at an annual rate in the October-December quarter. That would mark a second straight quarter of healthy growth after a 4.1 percent expansion from July through September.

Several districts reported significant improvement in manufacturing, suggesting businesses and consumers are spending more. A manufacturer in the Dallas district said that his company "had too many jobs to bid on ... for the first time since before the recession," according to the Beige Book.

Most districts also said home sales, construction and prices continued to rise. Several districts said the housing recovery was boosting output "all the way from raw materials like lumber to finished products like kitchen cabinets."

However, reports on tourism were more mixed. Atlanta reported healthy increases in hotel room reservations. But hotels in Manhattan said revenues per room in November fell more than 10 percent from a year earlier, the first 12-month decline since the fall of 2012. Travel and tourism were also weaker in Hawaii and Las Vegas.

Apple will refund at least \$32.5M in app case

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kids gleefully snapped up virtual pet food, gems or other items while playing games on their mobile devices, while the bills from Apple Inc. mounted, often without parents' knowledge. Now, the tech giant has agreed to refund the money.

Following tens of thousands of consumer complaints, the Federal Trade Commission said Wednesday that Apple will pay at least \$32.5 million to settle a federal case involving those in-app purchases. Apple also must change its billing practices to make it more obvious that an actual purchase is taking place during the course of the game or app.

Just how could a kid buy these things without mom or dad's knowledge and run up bills into the hundreds of dollars or more?

A game-player wants to advance to a new level or buy coins, a chest of gems or treats for a virtual pet. It takes a click, and then the app asks for a password. The child turns to a parent, who punches it in.

But, according to the FTC complaint, Apple did not always make it clear that they were buying something. Parents also were not told that entering the password started a 15-minute clock during which kids could make unlimited purchases without any further action by an adult, the agency said.

A single purchase generally can range from 99 cents to \$99, the commission said.

One parent told the FTC that her daughter had spent \$2,600 in "Tap Pet Hotel," in which children can build their own pet lodging. The game is free to download and play, but it takes in-app purchases for treats and coins for the pets.

Others consumers reported unauthorized purchases by children totaling more than \$500 in the apps "Dragon Story" and "Tiny Zoo Friends."

"You cannot charge consumers for purchases they did not authorize," said Edith Ramirez, the commission chairwoman.

Apple will have until Mar. 31 to come up with a billing system that ensures the company obtains consumers' informed consent before billing them for in-app purchases.

The settlement involves all apps in which minors made unauthorized purchases.

It addresses the same issue raised in a class-action lawsuit that Apple resolved last year. In that case, Apple agreed to contact 28 million of its app customers to offer them a \$5 store credit or a \$30 cash refund if their children had spent at least that much money without parental consent. The deadline for filing a claim was Monday.

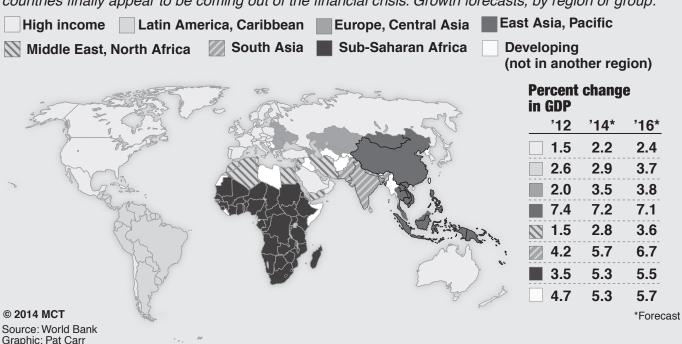
That settlement resulted in about 37,000 claims, according to a memo that Apple CEO Tim Cook sent to company employees Wednesday to discuss the FTC's rebuke.

"It doesn't feel right for the FTC to sue over a case that had already been settled," Cook wrote. "To us, it smacked of double jeopardy."

Cook said the Cupertino, Calif., company relented to the FTC because the consent decree "does not require us to do anything we weren't already going to do, so we decided to accept it rather than take on a long and distracting legal fight."

At a 'turning point'

The World Bank is forecasting stronger growth for the world economy in 2014 and says the richer countries finally appear to be coming out of the financial crisis. Growth forecasts, by region or group:



Senate ready to send \$1.1T spending bill to Obama

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Congress is poised to adopt a \$1.1 trillion package financing federal agencies this year, a bipartisan compromise that all but banishes the specter of an election-year government shutdown.

The Democratic-controlled Senate planned to give final congressional approval to the immense spending measure, possibly as early as Thursday. The Republican-run House passed the package Wednesday in a lopsided 359-67 vote that underscored how both parties could claim wins in the measure—and how both saw deep perils in fighting over it.

The legislation is a line-byline follow-up to the budget compromise the two parties pushed through Congress in December that set overall spending limits for the next two years.

The bill lawmakers were considering this week finances federal agencies through September. With the November congressional elections coming just weeks later, Congress is all but sure to provide more money later to avoid an election-eve budget clash.

The legislation increases agency budgets by \$26 billion over last year's total. But it still leaves them \$31 billion below where

last year's spending would have been if not for sequestration budget-wide cuts triggered after lawmakers failed to agree to deficit-cutting savings.

The measure let Republicans claim they have now restrained agency spending for four straight years. They won cuts to the Internal Revenue Service and Transportation Security Administration and foreign aid, restricted spending to implement President Barack Obama's health care and financial regulation overhauls, and won renewal of provisions limiting federal assistance for abortions.

The measure also lets legisla-

tors put budget battles behind them and turn to campaignseason themes: for the Republicans, Obama's health care law and for Democrats, boosting the incomes of low-earners and the middle class.

In the House, 64 of the 67 "no" votes came from Republicans, including many of the chamber's most conservative members.

Of the measure's \$1.1 trillion, \$521 billion is for defense and \$492 billion is for nondefense programs. In addition, the bill provides \$92 billion for military action overseas, mostly in Afghanistan, and \$7 billion for natural disasters.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

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DOW 16,481.94 +108.08 +0.66% **5&P** 1,848.38 +9.50 +0.52%

NASDAQ 4,214.88 +31.87 +0.76%

EXCHANGE RATES Australian Dollar 1.136

2	Australian Dollar	1.1364
terms	British Pound	0.6117
ıllar	Canadian Dollar	1.0947
in U.S. dollar	Chinese Yuan	6.0549
'n c	Euro	0.7349

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7546
Indian Rupee	61.5900
Indonesian Rupiah	12,118.0
Japanese Yen	104.7350
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2979
New Zealand Dollar	1.2021

Philippine Peso	45.2050
Singapore Dollar	1.2746
South Korean Won	1,064.8
Swiss Franc	0.9086
Taiwan Dollar	30.0975
Thailand Baht	32.8900

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 **19** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

New nuke scandal: 34 officers accused of cheating

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a stunning setback for a nuclear missile force already beset by missteps and leadership lapses, the Air Force disclosed on Wednesday that 34 officers entrusted with the world's deadliest weapons have been removed from launch duty for allegedly

cheating—or tolerating cheating by others—on routine proficiency tests.

The cheating scandal is the latest in a series of Air Force nuclear stumbles documented in recent months by The Associated Press, including deliberate violations of safety rules, failures of inspections, breakdowns in training, and evidence that the men and women who operate the missiles from underground command posts are suffering burnout. In October the commander of the nuclear missile force was fired for engaging in embarrassing behavior, including drunkenness, while leading a U.S. delegation to a nuclear exercise in Russia.

A "profoundly disappointed" Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James, the service's top civilian official, told a hurriedly

gym had planned the attack and

warned some classmates to stay

away moments before the gun-

fire rang out, investigators said

setas said it appeared the vic-

tims in Tuesday's shooting at

Berrendo Middle School in

State Police Chief Pete Kas-

Wednesday.

arranged Pentagon news conference that the alleged cheating at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., was discovered during a previously announced probe of drug possession by 11 officers at several Air Force bases, including two who also are in the nuclear force and suspected the missile force.

of participating in the cheating

"This is absolutely unacceptable behavior," James said of the cheating, which Gen. Mark Welsh, the Air Force chief of staff, said could be the biggest such scandal in the history of

Suspect's family 'heartbroken' over NM shooting

ACROSS THE NATION

Reports: 3 boys assaulted girl before her suicide

SARATOGA, Calif. (AP)—Three teenage boys have admitted to sexually assaulting a 15-year-old Northern California girl who later committed suicide after photographs of the attack were circulated to classmates, according to published reports. In September, two 16-year-old boys admitted in Santa Clara County Juvenile Court to participating in the sexual assault and possessing photos of the girl, Audrie Pott, the newspapers reported, citing documents and other sources. Both crimes are felonies. In addition, a 17-year-old boy admitted to the same two felonies, the papers said.

SFC crash firefighters saw girl before hitting her

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Video from the helmet camera of a firefighter responding to the crash landing of an Asiana Airlines flight in San Francisco shows at least one rescuer was aware someone was on the ground outside the aircraft and even warned a colleague. Yet two fire trucks subsequently ran over an injured passenger. The video, first aired by CBS News on Tuesday, shows the girl, 16-year-old Ye Meng Yuan, lying in the grass before she was struck, according to an attorney for her family. A coroner concluded she was alive at the time and died when she was later hit by a fire truck. In the video, a firefighter with a helmet camera tells the driver of a fire truck that there's a person in front of him. A fire truckmounted camera shows a firefighter directing the truck away from the person.

Experts see possible charges in NJ bridge scandal

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The George Washington Bridge traffic jam that was apparently engineered

by allies of Gov. Chris Christie as political payback could lead to criminal charges such as conspiracy or official misconduct, legal experts say. Also, those involved in the lane closings could be charged with perjury or obstruction if they lied to or misled investigators or if they produced documents after the fact that were designed to thwart an investigation. "To me, the most plausible course for a federal criminal investigation would be to see if there's any cover-up," said Rutgers University law professor Stuart Green, adding that under the law, the conduct being covered up does not have to be criminal in itself. Federal prosecutors and both houses of the state Legislature are investigating the scandal.



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Applications can also be picked up at any ABC Stores or apply online at abcstores.com

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ROSWELL, N.M. (AP)—The Roswell—an 11-year-old boy 12-year-old boy who opened and 13-year-old girl—were fire on a crowd of students in chosen randomly. a New Mexico middle school

The shotgun used by the boy came from his family's home, and he had three rounds of ammunition, Kassetas said at a news conference.

Meanwhile, the suspected shooter's family issued a statement Wednesday saying they were heartbroken and that their remorse could not be put into

words. They said the two children who were injured have been in their thoughts and prayers.

"We are horribly sad over this tragedy on so many levels," the family stated. "We are praying that God will be with everyone who has been affected."

The family added it will cooperate with law enforcement to "piece together how this awful tragedy occurred."



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 14-01

United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

SYSTEMS & NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

Location: GARAPAN, SAIPAN, MP Grade CL-26, \$42,640 - \$60,266 per annum, plus 13.84% COLA Salary matching may be available depending on qualifications. Opening Date: Jan. 15, 2014 CLOSING DATE: Jan. 31, 2014

Position Overview:

Install and manage Windows servers and the Windows Active Directory. Configure and manage wired, wireless, VLAN and VPN networks, and the VOIP telephone system. Help desk user support. Configure tablet and handheld devices. Additional information is available upon request, or via Internet at http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov. This position includes full federal employment benefits, with paid leave and holidays, health insurance, life insurance and federal retirement benefits.

Minimum Qualifications:

Applicants must be a high school or GED graduate, with at least two years progressively responsible experience that is in or closely related to this position and which has demonstrated the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully perform the duties of this position. College graduation with a bachelors degree in a related field may be substituted for some or all of the work experience at the discretion of the hiring authority. Applicants must possess the ability to exercise judgment and the ability to communicate effectively in writing and orally.

Citizenship Requirement:

Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or aliens who are authorized to work in the U.S.

Preferred Qualifications:

Advanced systems and network experience is preferred. Additional qualifications in Linux systems, server virtualization, SQL, PHP, or application programming are preferred.

Notice to Applicants:

Appointment is subject to a six-month probationary period. Upon selection, the candidate is required to satisfactorily pass an FBI background investigation.

Application Procedure:

Each applicant is required to submit a *signed* AO-78 application form and a *Cover Letter* AO-78 forms are on the Internet at: http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, Jan. 31, 2014 at 12:00noon, Saipan time (GMT+10:00),

Deliver applications to: Or, email signed applications to: **Clerk of Court** HR@nmid.uscourts.gov **United States District Court** for the Northern Mariana Islands 2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, Saipan

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer



20 FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asia

Floods, landslide kill 13 in Indonesia; 2 missing

MANADO, Indonesia (AP)— Days of torrential rain triggered a landslide and flash floods on Indonesia's Sulawesi island, killing at least 13 people and sending tens of thousands fleeing for safe ground, disaster officials said Thursday.

Residents and rescuers in Sangihe district of North Sulawesi province dug through debris with their bare hands and shovels. Two bodies were pulled from the mud, and eleven others were found in

the water late Wednesday, said lets after floods destroyed the National Disaster Mitigation Agency's spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

More than 1,000 houses were flooded by overflowing rivers in five other districts of the province, he said.

About 40,000 people fled to temporary shelters, and rescuers were still searching Thursday for at least two more villagers.

Police and soldiers struggled to reach about 1,000 people who were isolated in three hamonly bridge, said the agency's provincial chief Noldy Liow.

He said that rivers bloated by days of rain burst their banks and washed away dozens of houses and vehicles, including in the provincial capital of Manado. Floodwaters reached a meter (3.28 feet) in some places.

"Many people drowned or were buried by mud ... they didn't have time to save themselves," Liow said.

Philippines to stop using checks in antigraft drive

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— The Philippines launched anticorruption reforms Wednesday including cashless and checkless government transactions

that President Benigno Aquino III said will improve budget management make it harder to misappropriate funds.

Aquino, the son of revered pro-democracy champions who was elected president

in 2010 on promises to fight corruption and poverty, unveiled the programs at the start of a three-day conference on good governance.

"Our goal is to institutionalize reforms that make it very difficult for unscrupulous individuals to steal from the people—regardless of who sits in office," he said.

Budget Secretary Florencio

Abad said the changes will spell big savings for the government, which spends 8 pesos (18 cents) on each of the millions of checks it issues each year.

Electronic chase cards will be

piloted by agencies including the armed forces, the Department of National Defense and the Department of Budget and Management within the first quarter for payments for meals, medical supplies, airline tick-

ets and the like. Their financial transactions should be 100 percent checkless and 80 percent cashless before the end of the year, Aquino said.

If all goes well, the program will then be rolled out in other government agencies next year, he said. On top of easier tracking of procurement, Aquino said data gathered through the system will give government an accurate record of what programs need funding and will make it easier for Treasury to determine how much cash is needed on a daily basis

The information will also be used in another program launched Wednesday: a government website for up-to-date national data.



6 coal miners killed in fire in Vietnam

Aquino

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Six workers were killed in a fire in an underground coal tunnel in northern Vietnam, an official said Thursday. One worker escaped with burns after the fire erupted Wednesday night, and the bodies of six others who died of suffocation were pulled out Thursday morning, said Duong Quang Lai, director of the Uong Bi Coal Co. in Quang Ninh province. Authorities on Thursday were still trying to put out the fire at the tunnel, which is between 30-105 meters (98-345 feet) deep, he said. An investigation is underway. The province is Vietnam's main coal-mining region. Dozens of workers have been killed in the past decade in mining accidents there.

Police: Suspects in India tourist rape are iobless

NEW DELHI (AP)—Two suspects arrested in the gang rape of a 51-year-old Danish tourist in New Delhi are unemployed young men who allegedly attacked the woman for nearly three hours before fleeing with her belongings, police said Thursday. The two were picked up late Wednesday from a park near the scene of the crime, police spokesman Rajan Bhagat said. Investigators were closing in other suspects after the two provided details during questioning, he said. Police said the tourist was raped at knifepoint Tuesday near Connaught Place, a popular shopping area in the heart of New Delhi. The woman got lost and approached a group of men for directions back to her hotel. But instead of helping her, the men lured her to a secluded spot and raped her repeatedly, according to police.

Chinese police take away outspoken

Uighur activist

BEIJING (AP)—Police have taken away an outspoken scholar of China's Turkic Uighur ethnic minority and raided his home, seizing computers, cellphones and even his students' theses, his wife said Thursday. About 30 police officers raided economics professor Ilham Tohti's home in Beijing in a six-hour operation Wednesday afternoon after taking away the academic, his wife Guzaili Nu'er said in a phone interview. It was the latest and most serious of recent actions by Chinese authorities in apparent retaliation for his criticism of the ruling Communist Party's restrictive policies in his homeland in western China. Guzaili Nu'er said that Ilham Tohti and his two sons were at home while she was at work when police arrived. She rushed home but her husband had already been taken away.

World sea piracy falls for third

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—World sea piracy fell for a third straight year in 2013, as Somali pirates were curbed by international naval patrols and improved ship vigilance, an international maritime watchdog said Wednesday. The International Maritime Bureau said global pirate attacks fell to a six-year low of 264, down from 297 in 2012 and 439 in 2011. Pirate attacks have declined since hitting a peak in 2010 with 445 attacks. A total of 12 vessels were hijacked, with more than 300 crew members taken hostage and one killed during 2013, according to data compiled by the London-based bureau's piracy reporting center in Malaysia. "The single biggest reason for the drop in worldwide piracy is the decrease in Somali piracy off the coast of East Africa," said IMB director, Capt. Pottengal Mukundan.

World

Senate panel: Benghazi attack was preventable



This Sept 13, 2012 file photo shows a Libyan man investigating the inside of the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, after an attack that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Both highly critical and bipartisan, a Senate report declared Wednesday that the deadly assault on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, could have been prevented. The account spreads blame among the State Department, the military and U.S. intelligence for missing what now seem like obvious

warning signs. For the first time in the much-politicized aftermath, the report also points at Ambassador Chris Stevens, who was killed in the attack. It says that the State Department ended a deal with the military to have a special operations team provide extra security in Libya, and that Stevens twice refused an offer to reinstate the team in the weeks before the Sept. 11, 2012, attack.

The military also takes criticism in the report for failing to respond more quickly on the night of the assault.

On the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks in the U.S., armed militants stormed the diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, setting the building on fire. Stevens, information technology specialist Sean Smith, and CIA security contractors Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty, both former Navy SEALs, were killed over the course of two

battles that night.

Stevens died of smoke inhalation after he was taken to a "safe room" in the besieged compound. The Obama administration first described the assault as a spontaneous mob protest of an anti-Islamic, American-made video. Such a protest did occur at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo earlier that day. Republican critics say the administration was reluctant to deal publicly with a terror attack weeks before the presidential election.

Officials corrected their description days after the attack, but by then it had become a hot political issue that has continued to dog the administration.

Police: Bank robber hides weapon on his crutch

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP)—A disabled man has been charged with robbing a bank in Greece with a shotgun hidden on his crutch.

Police in the northern Greece said the man's first attempt on the outskirts of Thessaloniki failed when his ploy got him to the one crutch he was using.

a teller without suspicion but the bank's safe was on a time delay.

Four days later, the ruse worked at a nearby bank and he made off with 12,000 euros (\$16,000).

In both cases, the weapon was strapped to the inside of

Police said Wednesday the 56-year-old suspect, a local baker who was not identified, said he was heavily in debt during Greece's economic crisis and used the stolen money to pay his creditors.

He was charged with robbery and breaking firearms laws.

Amnesty: Gays arrested in 4 Nigerian states

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—A "witch hunt" for gay people has led to arrests in at least four of Nigeria's 36 states, Amnesty International said Wednesday, blaming a new law criminalizing gay organizations and meetings as well as same-sex marriage.

It said the law's disregard for human rights mirrors that of the military dictators who ruled Africa's most populous nation until 1999.

Nigerian human rights defenders say they fear further persecution of gay people under the law in a notoriously corrupt country where police are known

to make arrests to extort money and blackmail victims.

"With the stroke of a pen, President (Goodluck) Jonathan has essentially turned Nigeria into one of the world's least tolerant societies," Londonbased Amnesty International said in a statement calling for the law to be withdrawn without delay.

The Associated Press reported Tuesday that 38 people had been arrested in the northern state of Bauchi since Christmas, and some have been charged in court with belonging to a gay organization.

Amnesty said 10 people have been detained since Monday in four southern states.

It said police in Bauchi have confirmed they have a list of suspects of minority sexual orientation who are under surveillance that also is being used to "find out who their victims are."

"Amnesty International is calling on the authorities to stop all further arrests and put an immediate end to this witch hunt," the statement said.

Jonathan signed the law despite international condemnation.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 **21** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Off The Wall

Thousands of fish dead in Nevada marina mystery

SPARKS, Nev. (AP)—State wildlife officials are trying to figure out why all the fish have died in a northern Nevada marina where the stocked fishery has flourished since the man-made lake was created nearly 15 years ago.

An estimated 100,000 trout, bass and catfish have died over the past month in the Sparks Marina along U.S. Interstate 80 east of Reno, apparently the result of a dramatic, unexplained drop in dissolved oxygen levels, Nevada Department of Wildlife spokesman Chris Healy said Wednesday.

Scientists say a bitter cold snap could have caused oxygen-poor waters to rise from the old rock quarry's bottom to the surface, but they don't understand what sparked the massive die-off.

Fish biologists confirmed low oxygen levels caused the death of an estimated 3,000 fish in one corner of the lake in mid-December, but Healy said they thought at the time that the event was localized and of limited impact. Since then, they've been unable to detect any live fish in the 77-acre lake. Numerous dead fish have been removed from the lake's shoreline, and



In this Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2014 photo, a dead cat fish lies on the east shore of the Sparks Marina in Sparks, Nev.

Healy said it's likely the rest sank to the bottom.

"The 100,000 dead fish figure is something that is probably a pretty conservative guess," said Healy, who estimates they've stocked close to 1 million adult fish in the lake since they started in 1998.

"We don't know if any small

fish have survived, but for all intents and purposes, the fishery doesn't exist anymore," he told The Associated Press.

The Reno Gazette-Journal first reported scientists determined the problem was much more serious than they realized after a boat survey on Monday found dissolved oxygen levels far too low to support the fish at 11 different sampling locations. Readings from an electronic fish-finder also revealed no fish swimming in the lake's depths.

Lakes like the marina consist of different lavers of water temperatures, with the warmest water on top holding the highest oxygen content, Healy said.

ops: Video of pot plants leads to Conn. arrest

CLINTON, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut man faces numerous drug charges after police say he posted a YouTube video of himself giving a tour of what he calls his marijuana garden.

Police in the shoreline town of Clinton, about 20 miles east of New Haven, arrested William Bradley, 46, on Monday following a six-month investigation.

In the video, a man identifying himself as Bradley says he's growing marijuana because it helps relieve symptoms of his terminal cancer. He also solicits donations, saying he wants to give away marijuana to people who need it for medical reasons, instead of selling it to help support himself. Some of the plants are taller than he is.

"Welcome to my beautiful garden," the man says. "As you can see, God has gifted me with an abundance and it's more than I need, so I want to take the extra and give it to people who need the help."

He says in the video that it's

October and he intends to harvest the plants in a couple weeks.

Clinton police said they have known Bradley for several years. In 2008, they arrested him on allegations of having more than 10 pounds of marijuana. Court records show he pleaded guilty to possession with intent to sell and was sentenced to two years of probation.

An officer discovered the video and began investigating. Through surveillance, police said they discovered that Bradley was using a storage bin and obtained a search warrant.

On Monday, police said they searched the bin and found more than two pounds of marijuana, more than 20 grams of hashish, two baggies of cocaine, four oxycodone pills, about \$1,000 in cash and drug paraphernalia.

Bradley was charged with several drug crimes and detained on \$5,000 bail. He was to be arraigned in Middletown Superior on Tuesday. It's not clear whether he has a lawyer.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITIATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB 14-CHCC-047

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 07, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

<u>"VIP HOUSING UNITS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH</u> **HEALTHARE CORPORATION**"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL RIDS AND Proposals; in whole or in part, and to wave any imperfections in the best INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA CEO - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP. /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITIATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB 14-DEQ-053

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2014

"PURCHASE OF TEN (10) COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN

Light Truck Delivery Driver

Delivery truck drivers transport, and drop off packages and small shipments within a local region or urban area. They drive trucks with a 26,000-pound gross vehicle weight (GVW) capacity or less. Most of the time, they transport merchandise from a distribution center to businesses and households. Load and unload their cargo. Report any incidents they encounter on the road to a dispatcher. Follow all applicable traffic laws. Report serious mechanical problems to the appropriate personnel. Keep their truck and associated equipment clean and in good working order. Handle paperwork, such as receipts or delivery confirmation notices.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base

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Backgrounds checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experiences. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd@cosmosdistributing.com not later than January 24, 2014.

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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

4 kittens pull 'break-in' at upstate NY prison

FORT ANN, N.Y. (AP)—A litter of kittens has found a cozy home in the least cozy of places—a maximum-security prison in upstate New York. The Post-Star of Glens Falls reports four kittens found their way into the basement of the Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Fort Ann a few months ago. That's near the Vermont border 55 miles northeast of Albany. The family of feral felines has been cared for by inmates and prison staff, including head electrician Bruce Porter. He arrives at work early so he can tend to the cats, which live in a large cage built by an inmate. Another inmate takes care of the cats on weekends when many prison employees are off. Prison officials say they're hoping to find the kittens homes among the staff.

Ohio woman offers beer, smokes as lost dog reward

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio woman made fliers offering a case of beer and a pack of cigarettes as a reward for finding her lost dog-and it worked. Twenty-three-year-old Abigail Miller of Dayton offered the unusual reward after her two dogs escaped through an open gate on Jan. 2. She found one of them at a local animal shelter a few days later, but the other, a Husky named Zoro, remained missing. The Dayton Daily News reports that Miller came up the reward because she could afford it and figured it would attract attention. She was right. The man who called and told Miller where to find her dog turned down the reward, but she says she's going to offer him some food from the sandwich shop where she works.

Cat rescued after 3 winter days in Ohio drainpipe

FINDLAY, Ohio (AP)—A cat that spent at least three winter days in a northwest Ohio drainpipe has been rescued after initially refusing attempts to lure it out with tuna, the classic call of "here, kitty, kitty" and even a cellphone app that meowed. The Courier newspaper reports a resident in Findlay heard the cat's cries Wednesday. Groundskeepers at a school cut through the pipe Friday to free the orange cat, which was muddy, emaciated and hypothermic. The male cat has been named Piper. It has a broken leg and other injuries signaling it's had a rough time lately. But things are looking up, with a number of people volunteering to adopt if it goes unclaimed. One veterinarian assessed the cat this way: "If they truly have nine lives, he probably has three left."

Owner: Dead chickens being left at NM cemetery

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A small Albuquerque cemetery appears to be the victim of some fowl activity: Someone is leaving dead chickens and bird parts near its headstones. KRQE-TV reports that Michael Gabaldon, co-owner of Romero Cemetery, says for two years, dead chickens and chicken parts have been dropped off overnight. He says the chickens have been left periodically from every day to every two weeks. There also are bones or feathers scattered throughout the cemetery. Gabaldon says he doesn't know if the chickens are part of a religious ceremony, but he called the bizarre practice disgusting and creepy. He says he hopes to put up a gate to keep cars out at night.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPOR P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF PTZ CAMERAS AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-14

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement, installation & commissioning of PTZ cameras and security and surveillance systems at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning January 10, 2014 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of PTZ cameras and Surveillance System, Project No. CPA-RFP-006-14". One original and four copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, February 7, 2014, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All Proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., January 23, 2014 at the Port of Saipan Conference Room. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only those vendors present at the pre-proposal conference will be allowed to submit proposals. A site visit may be conducted immediately after the conference or may be requested by making appointments with the CPA Seaport Manager to ensure that proposers submitting a proposal are aware of the general area where the cameras are to be installed.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejections or cancellations; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

22 FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Science & Technology

By REID KANALEY

Many people settle for a job, but there are online tools that can help you choose a career that suits your personality, education, stress tolerance, and, of course, your need for money.

■ Stressed out? At BusinessInsider.com, there's a list of "high-paying jobs for people who don't like stress"-illustrated, strangely, with a photo of a couple nursing tall glasses of beer. The list includes jobs with annual pay averaging from about \$65,000 to \$186,000, the latter number belonging to orthodontists, who apparently find

Get help with choosing a career

it relaxing to realign people's teeth and jaws. Other jobs that allegedly don't bring much stress in return for the paycheck include being an art director, an urban planner, an engineer or an economist. http://read. bi/1hV1S7U

■ Pick a career "you actually like," says this post at Lifehacker.com. But don't expect to be right on your first try-that works out for about one person in 20, according to the post. "Pick a lifestyle, not a job title," it says, and don't fall for hype. Being a lawyer, for example: "You see their exciting life on TV: a gloriously safe path from college to law school to a high-paying job. But behind the scenes, each year the American Bar Association conducts a survey to ask if lawyers would recommend their profession to other people, and the vast majority of lawyers say no." http:// goo.gl/0LZHB

■ If you think a certain ca-

reer or industry might interest you, but don't really know that much about it, visit the Occupational Outlook Handbook at the website of the U.S. Department of Labor. The department has detailed information on jobs—the training they require, the pay you might expect, the prospects of actually landing a position. And you can browse easily from this page to see careers sorted by the highest pay,

fastest-growing fields, or most plentiful job openings. Or, click on an occupation category, such as health care, to browse the scores of job types under that category, what the job duties are, what qualifies as entry-level training, and what to expect for pay. www.bls.gov/ooh

■ No clue what you want to be when you grow up? Join the club and take this "how to find the perfect job quiz" at About.

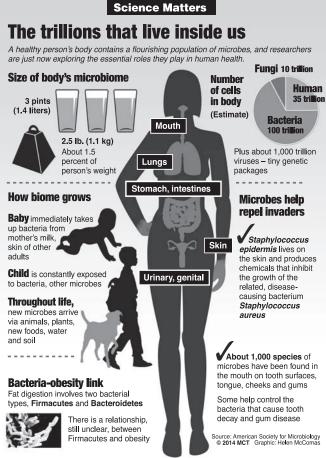
com. The step-by-step questionnaire won't make a decision for you, but it's a good way to start seeing where your likes and expectations may be pointing. You don't need to express any leanings to begin with, because the slate of initial quiz choices under the question "What type of job are you looking for?" includes "I don't have a clue! I need help figuring out what I want to do." Your answers lead to links to other online aptitude. personality and skills tests. http://goo.gl/ARaeDp

TECH Q&A

How thieves steal data but don't take it

By STEVE ALEXANDER

Number of cells in body (Estimate) 2.5 lb. (1.1 kg) Plus about 1,000 trillion viruses – tiny genetic Microbes help



QUESTION: My computer was "nailed" by the CryptoLocker malware. It has encrypted my **Microsoft Word documents** and Excel spreadsheets so that I can't access them. While it still shows up as an icon on my main screen, it appears to be

Is there a way to get my documents back and rid myself of this virus?-Ron Thomas. Ortonville, Minn.

ANSWER: You can get rid of CryptoLocker, which is trans-

mitted through email attachments or surreptitious downloads, but you can't get your files back.

CyptoLocker holds your computer files for ransom by using the security technique of encryption, or file locking, against you. Normally, encryption protects your files from being stolen because only you have the "private encryption key," or computer code, that's needed to read them. But in this case, remote hackers on the Internet have encrypted your files, and they alone have the can expect to get a hacker demand for several hundred dollars as the price of unlocking your files. But you should never pay such a ransom to people who are unreliable petty thieves.

To get rid of CryptoLocker, run the free software removal tool from reputable security firm Sophos at http://tinyurl. com/bsykg28. To read more about the malware on Sophos' blog, see hhttp://tinyurl.com/ myq56hn.

To minimize your chances of being infected again, keep

private encryption key. You your software up to date (updates often patch security flaws), be careful which email attachments you open and regularly back up your data to an external hard drive or flash drive.

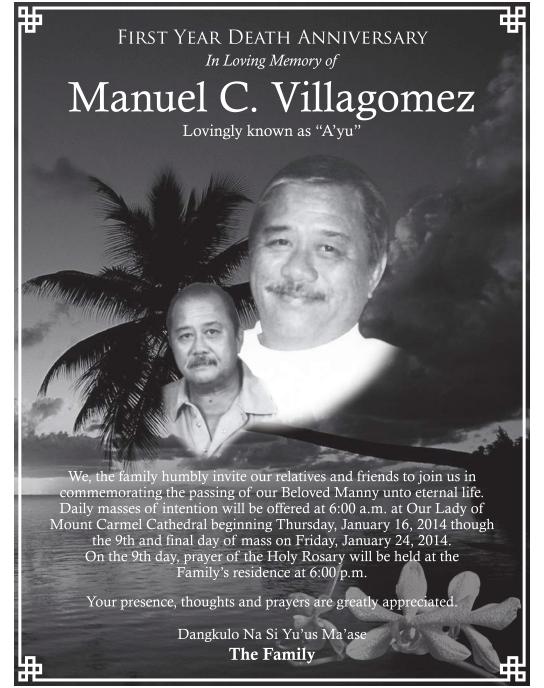
Q: I have several pairs of TV wireless earphones that use the 900 megahertz radio frequency. But none of them allow me to hear a movie that's playing on my Blu-ray player.

Neither the Blu-ray player nor my conventional DVD player has the audio jacks I need to plug in the wireless transmitter for the earphones. My TV does have the jacks, but doesn't give me any sound. The only method that works is to plug the earphone transmitter into the cable TV box. No one seems to have a solution except to buy more expensive earphones. Any suggestions?-Rick Felber, Minneapolis

A: The problem is that your earphones are analog. As a result, the wireless transmitter for your earphones has only analog connectors, while your digital Blu-ray and DVD players have digital-only plug-ins. Your TV is a puzzle; it has both types of plug-ins, but isn't giving you an analog signal.

You can either purchase a digital wireless earphonetransmitter set (an expensive move considering they cost \$300 and up) or buy a digital-to-analog signal converter box (about \$25) that will connect your wireless earphone transmitter to your Blu-ray or DVD players. For details on a digital-to-analog converter, see http://tinyurl. com/knqtatb.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@ gmail.com.



Message of Appreciation
We, the family of the late

†Juan Sablan Cepeda
Better known as "Juan German"

Wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives, friends and neighbors for your kind expression of love, sympathy, personal assistance and support during this difficult time of sorrow in the passing of our beloved into the caring hands of our Creator.

We extend our special thanks to Pastor Victor Borja, Ton Cepeda Pangelinan and CHC Staff, Department of Public Safety and Staff, Mayor of Saipan and Staff, KKMP Radio Station - Gary & Rosemond Sword, The Samoan Community on Saipan, Congressman Roman Benavente, Congressman Mariano Taitano, and Congressman Tony Sablan, The Victory Chapel Congregation, and to our very close families, relatives and friends.

To all who have supported us in one way or another, for your presence at the Funeral and Interment Services. For the many acts of kindness and generosity which gave us the strength and courage to endure our loss - We thank you.

Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Faafetai Tele Lava Thank you very much for your thoughts and prayers support and presence.

From the family of the late †Juan Sablan Cepeda

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 **23**

Life & Style

'Gravity' may exert force in Oscar nominations

By JAKE COYLE

The force of "Gravity" may be about to exert itself on Hollywood's awards season.

When Academy Award nominations are announced Thursday morning from Beverly Hills, Calif., Alfonso Cuaron's 3-D space adventure will likely rival "12 Years a Slave" and "American Hustle" in a close contest for most-nominated film. Though much of the season has been a see-saw between Steve McQueen's heavy historical epic and David O. Russell's lighter Abscam melodrama. "Gravity" should emerge Thursday as an equally strong Oscar contender.

All three are locks for a best picture nomination. And while "Gravity," with a cast of just a few, won't reap the acting nods that the acclaimed ensembles of "American Hustle" and "12 Years a Slave" will, it holds an edge in technical categories. Cuaron's box-office hit (\$670 million worldwide) has been hailed for its innovative visual effects, which are sure to be honored by the academy.

The Golden Globes are typically a weak forecaster to the Oscars, but last Sunday's ceremony reflected consensus by naming "American Hustle" best comedy and "12 Years a Slave" drama. Hollywood's best guilds, whose members largely make up the academy, have in their awards nominations also voiced strong support for Paul Greengrass' Somali pirate docudrama "Captain Phillips," Martin Scorsese's finance fiasco "The Wolf of Wall Street" and Alexander Payne's black-andwhite road trip "Nebraska."

But an added bit of intrigue, as has been the case in recent years, is how many best-picture nominees there will be. It could be anywhere between five and 10. Films somewhere on the bubble are "Dallas Buyers Club," "Her," "Saving Mr. Banks," "Philomena" and "Inside Llewyn Davis."

Though the Coen brothers' "Inside Llewyn Davis" was once viewed as a near certainty, the early 1960s folk tale was overlooked by the screen actors, producers, writers and directors guilds, seemingly dooming its chances.

The most-watched category may be best actor. This year's candidates are especially strong, including Matthew McConaughey ("Dallas Buyers Club"), Chiwetel Ejiofor ("12 Years a Slave"), Tom Hanks ("Captain Phillips"), Bruce Dern ("Nebraska"), Leonardo DiCaprio ("The Wolf of Wall Street") and Robert Redford ("All Is Lost").

That's six names for five spots, and many believe Redford (who has never won an acting Oscar) will be the odd man out after the Screen Actors Guild snubbed him. Also potentially on the outside are Christian Bale ("American Hustle"), Forest Whitaker ("Lee Daniels" The Butler") and Oscar Isaac ("Inside Llewyn Davis").

The best actress category, too, may see a beloved veteran—Meryl Streep for "August: Osage County"—have difficulty making it in. Amy Adams, a winner at the Globes for her performance in "American Hustle," has ascended in prognostications. Others expected to receive nods are Cate Blanchett ("Blue Jasmine"), Sandra Bullock

among gifts to British queen LONDON (AP)—Crystal vas- Castle and a chocolate carriage

Chocolate castle and beetles

es, brooches, books: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II received dozens of traditional gifts last year, but she also got some unusual items, from a chocolate Windsor Castle to some enameled beetles.

Buckingham Palace on Wednesday released a list of official gifts the monarch and other members of Britain's royal family received in 2013 from foreign dignitaries, companies and charities. Many were predictable—china plates, paperweights, framed pictures—but some were more surprising.

The High Commissioner for Bangladesh gave the queen four enameled Scarab beetles, and Sri Lanka's president chose a portrait of the monarch burned onto a tree trunk. The maker of Mars Bars gave her a chocolate version of Windsor after she visited the company's U.K. headquarters.

Some of the more lavish items on the queen's gift list included a family photograph in a gold frame set on a jeweled ostrich egg and a five-strand pearl necklace, given by the president of the United Arab Emirates when he visited in April. The governor of Saskatchewan in Canada sent a diamond and tourmaline brooch.

Princess Anne also received some unconventional presents, including a gnome, a plastic angel, and an art print of the royal riding a moose—a gift from a Canadian artist.

Cufflinks, ties, tie pins and pens were popular gifts for the royal men, though Prince Andrew also received a set of golf clubs, a gingerbread cathedral, and socks.



This film image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Sandra Bullock in a scene from "Gravity."

("Gravity"), Judi Dench ("Philomena") and Emma Thompson ("Saving Mr. Banks").

Other questions linger, too. Will James Gandolfini be post-humously nominated for his supporting performance in the romantic comedy "Enough Said"? Can James Franco sneak in for his grotesque extremes in "Spring Breakers"? Will we actually say "Oscar-nominee 'Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa"? (It has a legitimate shot in the makeup category.) The answers of a long and winding awards season will come Thursday morning.



Brothers: †Jose Q. Muña, †Juan Q. Muña
Prothers and Sisters In Lewis †Levenge T. Come

Brothers and Sisters In Laws: †Lorenzo T. Camacho, †Jose T. Camacho, †Jesus T. Camacho, †Pedro T. Camacho, †Concepcion C.

†Baleriana T. Camacho, †Romana T. Camacho, †Baleriana T. Camacho, †Victoria Ch. Camacho, †Juana L. Camacho, †Rita S. Camacho, †Antonia S. Camacho, †Carmen S. Camacho, †Rosario I. Camacho, †Jose A. Muña, †Cresencia T. Muña, †Dolores C. Muña, †Pedro R. Camacho, †Antonio M. Benavente

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Children and Families:

Antonio Camacho Muña / Maria P. Muña (Frankie/Rosie LG. Muña, Tina Marie/Francisco C. Aguon, Anthony / Trinidad S. Muña, Kenneth / Maria C. Muña, Nick/Esther L. Muña, Joycelyn/Francisco A. Reyes, Dwayne P. Muña, Joseph/Linda B. Muña, Ly'ana P. Muña, Joseph P. Muña, Jr.)

Cecilia Muña Villagomez/†Roman T. Villagomez (Maria Margarita Villagomez/Jason Leon Guerrero, Antonette Carmen/Jesse James Teigita, Jose Roman Villagomez/Virginia Cruz)

Jesus Camacho Muña/Dorothea C. Muña (†Jesus C. Muña, Jr., Geraldine/Mark Mendiola, Caroline/Jered Lutu, Alfred/Grace Muña)

Jose Camacho Muña/Janet I. Muña (Jessica/Michael Manglona, Marie I. Muña, Joanna/Peter Damian, Joey I Muña) Maria Muña McDill/Henry McDill (Katherine, Geraldine/Butch Wisehart, Glenn, Mathew, Douglas, Robert) Cornelia Camacho Muña

Delfina Camacho Muña (Glenn Paul/Elisa S. Muña)

Ana Muña Sablan/Herman P. Sablan (Leolani/Cory Starks, Kolin M. Reyes/Rose Deleon Guerrero, Marvin Reyes, Ashley/Ryan Tudela)

Francisco Camacho Muña/Joyce Muña (Meagan, Margaret, Cheyenne)

Maria Margarita Muña Reyes/†Joseph A. Reyes (Rose/Sylvan Cabrera, Joseph Jr., Jeffrey, Julian/Jeding, Roman) †Olympio Camacho Muña (Justin Keith, Olympio Jr./Kenja Faisao, Nick Atanacio, Mary Margaret)
Merced Camacho Muña/Isidro R. Sablan (Jolene Nicole, Robert Herman, Sidney John, Nick Jesse)

Our Tata is additionally survived by 96 Great Grandchildren and 24 Great-Great Grandchildren.

Daily Mass of Intentions are celebrated each evening at St Jude Church, Koblerville at 6:00pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2014. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:30am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am. Interment Services will be at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery-Marpi, Saipan where he will join his beloved wife †Margarita at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers!

Children and families of the late †Nicolas Quidachai Muña and †Margarita Tudela Camacho Muña

Court upholds conviction of Michael Jackson doctor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An appellate court on Wednesday unanimously upheld the involuntary manslaughter conviction of Michael Jackson's doctor, determining there was substantial evidence of his guilt presented at trial.

The ruling by the California 2nd District Court of Appeal came less than three months after former cardiologist Conrad Murray was released. He served two years in jail for causing Jackson's 2009 death.

The 68-page ruling includes lengthy recitations of the evidence against Murray, who was convicted in 2011 of giving Jackson a lethal dose of the anesthetic propofol in June 2009 while the superstar was preparing for a series of comeback concerts titled "This Is It."

The six-week trial focused on Murray's care of Jackson, including nightly doses of propofol to help the entertainer sleep.

In its opinion, the appeals court determined that Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor was within his right to impose the maximum sentence of four years.



Murray

Murray's "callous disregard for Mr. Jackson's health and safety was shown throughout the trial from the manner in which he administered a number of dangerous drugs to Mr. Jackson without the appropriate medi-

cal equipment, precautions or personnel in place, and to the manner in which he left Mr. Jackson unattended," the opinion states

"The evidence demonstrated that Mr. Jackson was a vulnerable victim and that (Murray)

was in a position of trust, and that (Murray) violated the trust relationship by breaching standards of professional conduct in numerous respects," it said.

The former physician was released from jail in October due to a change in California law requiring nonviolent offenders to serve their sentences in county jails and as a result of credits for good behavior.

In his appeal, Murray argued that the judge who oversaw the case improperly excluded jurors from hearing key evidence and should have sequestered jurors.

The appellate court disagreed

and said it found no errors in the judge's rulings, including one allowing the trial to be televised.

Murray's trial lawyers attempted to introduce evidence of Jackson's financial difficulties and his treatment by other doctors, but Pastor ruled testimony on those issues would be irrelevant.

Attorney Valerie Wass, who represented Murray in the appeal, said she was disappointed but not surprised by the ruling and is carefully reviewing it to assess the next steps. She said she hasn't spoken to Murray since the opinion was issued but his intention has been to chal-

NEW YORK (AP)—Sophia

Bush is happy to be hanging

She spent nine years on the

CW series "One Tree Hill,"

with the grown-ups.

young people from

their teens into their

Now the 31-year-

old actress plays a

cop closer to her

own age on NBC's

"Chicago P.D.," air-

ing Wednesdays (10

"Finally!" she exclaimed in

"When you're working on a

a recent interview when asked

about what it means to make

show whose subject matter is

deemed to be teen, even though

it evolved out of that, there's

still an energy to it that can be

very frustrating as an adult hu-

man being and it was really

"As the years went on we felt

that we were growing and our

characters were growing but

there was still this really terrible

high-school bully energy."

hard for a lot of us," she said.

p.m. EST).

the transition.

Bush

twenties.

lenge his conviction to higher courts if necessary.

A phone message left for Supervising Deputy Attorney General Victoria Wilson was not immediately returned. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, which prosecuted the case, declined comment.

Also on Wednesday, lawyers for Jackson's estate and Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's of London resolved a case of the payout of a \$17.5 million tour cancellation and non-appearance policy that was scheduled to go to trial in February. The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

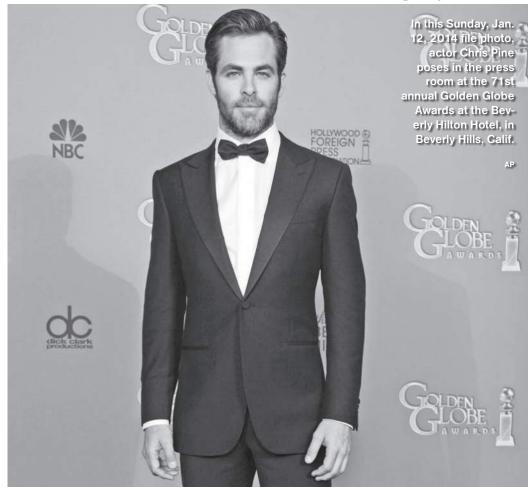
Chris Pine criticizes Russia's anti-gay law

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Chris Pine says the U.S. should have done more in the run-up to the Sochi Olympics to protest Russia's anti-gay legislation, which he calls "clearly awful, archaic, hostile nonsense."

"I think we should do more than just send gay Olympians there," the 33-year-old actor said in an interview while promoting his film Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit. "What's happening there in terms of gay rights or the lack of it is extraordinary and awful."

Pine's character tries to thwart a terror attack on the U.S. that originates in Russia and takes on a powerful Russian tech magnate in his new movie, opening Friday. It's based on the late author Tom Clancy's work but doesn't revolve around the plot of any single book.

The Ryan character, portrayed in previous films by Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford and Ben Affleck, was originally a CIA operative working during the Cold War. The new Ryan faces a different landscape.



"It's not like the Bay of Pigs where nuclear war is going to start at the drop of a hat. At least it's not there," Pine said of current U.S.-Russia relations.

The Russian law on "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations among minors" was signed into law by President Vladimir Putin last year. Originally titled the law on "homosexual propaganda," the bill criminalizes public expression of support for nontraditional relationships.

The U.S. is sending openly gay former Olympic athletes Billie Jean King, Brian Boitano and Caitlin Cahow to the opening ceremony of the Sochi Olympics, which start Feb. 7.

First lady uses film to make pitch for education

lady Michelle Obama is turning a film about two inner-city boys left to fend for themselves into a call for the nation to do more to

help young people get the support they need to make it to-and through—college.

The first lady held a White House screen ing of "The Inevitable Defeat of Mister & Pete" on Wednesday for educators and oth-

ers working to help young people make it against long odds. The movie tells the story of two boys in New York left to take care of themselves.

Obama

The movie "should begin the conversation that is already happening about what we have to do to invest in kids in this community," the first lady said. "Because there are millions of Mister and Petes out there who are just struggling to make it."

Singer Alicia Keys, the movie's executive producer, also difficult for the female members of the cast. "When (characters) Brooke

She said it was especially

Sophia Bush grows up with 'Chicago P.D.

and (Hilarie Burton's) Peyton which followed a group of were pitted against each other

... the fans on Peyton's side started hating me, not my character. And the fans that were on my side started hating Hilarie, not her character. For us as a group of friends it was really traumat-

ic at times to see the way that people were talking about us and to not sort of be allowed to sort of get out from under that. ... We're like, 'Listen, we're grown-ups who love each other! Can we please stop fighting?"

"Chicago P.D." is a spinoff of the NBC series "Chicago Fire." It focuses on the Intelligence Unit of the Chicago Police Department. The show is produced by Dick Wolf, creator and executive producer of the "Law & Order" franchise.

Martina McBride returns with soulful covers record

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— When Martina McBride started looking for material for her next album, she turned to the great soul singers Aretha Franklin and Etta James for inspiration.

The country singer, known for her huge soprano voice, is self-releasing "Everlasting" on March 4, an album of classic soul and R&B songs made famous by the likes of Franklin and James, and Elvis and Van Morrison.

"It seemed interesting," she said. "And as a singer, really challenging and fun, too, to push my boundaries a little bit and tackle some of these classic songs and performances."

McBride often performs cover songs, everything from traditional country standards to 1980s rock. But she found that



the soul songs her parents listened to at home aren't that different from the songs she made her career on.

"In a way this music is so similar to country music in that it just has emotion and soul," McBride said. "That's what I look for when I look for my own songs, something I can sing with a lot of emotion. There's a heartbeat to this music.'

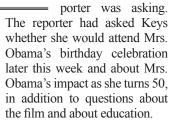
She recorded with Don Was, the prolific Detroit producer who has worked with The Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan, at Blackbird Studio in Nashville

"We didn't necessarily have every song buttoned up before we went into the studio, which I love, because I love the spontaneity of recording something kind of spur of the moment," said McBride, who recorded with a very small band.

On some of the songs, Motown-style horn sections and background vocals were added as tribute to the original recordings. On others, she puts her own mark on the songs. On her version of "I've Been Loving You Too Long," McBride sings along to a simple guitar track instead of the swelling horns in Otis Redding's song.

WASHINGTON (AP)—First was on hand for the screening at the White House. An Associated Press interview with Keys after the event was abruptly

halted by one of her assistants, and the reporter was ushered out of the vehicle where the interview occurred, as it left the White House grounds because the handler said she objected to the type of questions the re-



Mrs. Obama pointed to President Barack Obama's goal that the U.S. have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020, and pledged to make education an ongoing focus for the rest of her tenure in the White House.



Mon: (1:05PM) (4:05PM), 7:05PM Tues – Thurs: (4:05PM), 7:05PM

Times For 1/17 - 1/23 www.REGmovie

'Pieces' author Frey has multibook, media deal

NEW YORK (AP)—James Frey has only begun to write.

The author of the discredited memoir "A Million Little Pieces" has a multibook, multimedia deal with HarperCollins for a young-adult series called "Endgame."

Wednesday that Frey's production company, Full Fathom Five, will turn out three novels and nine novellas. The project also includes YouTube videos, gaming designed by Google's Niantic Labs and social media.

The publisher announced Twentieth Century Fox has acquired film rights.

> The first book will be "Endgame: The Calling." It is due out in October and will be coauthored by Nils Johnson-Shel-

The basic "Endgame" plot is

a fight to the death among teens from rival bloodlines. It's being criticized by online commentators as too similar to Suzanne Collins' "The Hunger Games."

Frey acknowledged on Oprah Winfrey's show in 2006 he lied in "A Million Little Pieces."

1D's Liam Payne sorry for high-rise ledge photo

LONDON (AP)—One Direction member Liam Payne says he is sorry for being "stupid and irresponsible" after he was photographed standing on a building ledge 34 stories above the ground.

A photo published Wednesday in British tabloid the Sun shows the boy-band singer standing on the ledge of a high-rise with a city that appears to be London behind him.

The 20-year-old said in a statement that "I regret being there and having a photo taken. It was a stupid and irresponsible thing to do."

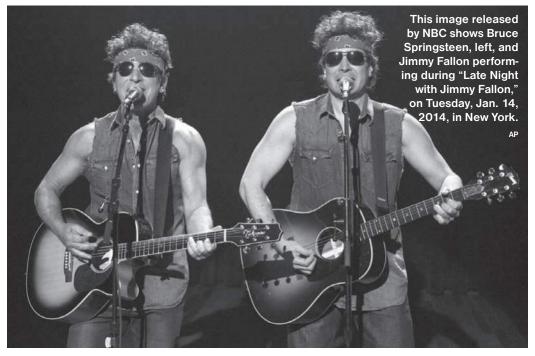
He urged fans not to imitate his "extremely dangerous" behavior.

The band emerged from Simon Cowell's British TV series "The X Factor" in 2010 and became one of the world's top-selling groups, with three albums topping U.S. music charts.

This is a Saturday, May 26 2012 file photo of One Direction member Liam Payne as heperforms in



Springsteen, Fallon parody Christie's traffic jams



NEW YORK (AP)—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's favorite rock star has something

threatened the Republican's to say about the scandal that's chances at running for president endorse Christie.

Appearing on NBC's "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon," Bruce Springsteen joined the comedian in a parody song called "Gov. Chris Christie's Fort Lee, New Jersey Traffic Jam."

Christie considers himself among Springsteen's biggest fans and said he wept after he got a hug from Springsteen at a concert in 2012.

But the governor has been on the defensive after documents released last week showed a top aide orchestrated a massive traffic jam in an apparent act of political revenge.

The jam at the foot of one of the world's busiest bridges came after the Democratic mayor of the town there refused to

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

CW: 'Veronica Mars' spinoff planned for online

PASADENA, California (AP)—The CW says it's developing an online spinoff of the "Veronica Mars" series. Series creator Rob Thomas has agreed to do the digital version, CW President Mark Pedowitz told a meeting of the Television Critics Association on Wednesday. The decision to proceed with the spinoff was made Tuesday and details have yet to be worked out, including the cast and characters, the CW said. "Veronica Mars," which was cancelled in 2007 after three seasons, is enjoying a resurgence. A film based on the show about a crime-solving teen, played by Kristen Bell, was funded by the crowd-funding site Kickstarter. The movie is due out in March. A debut date for the online spinoff was not announced.

Country singer Trace Adkins enters alcohol rehab

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country singer Trace Adkins has entered alcohol rehab. Adkins' publicist tells Country Weekly and confirms to The Associated Press on Wednesday that the singer entered rehab after consuming alcohol during the Country Cruising cruise. The 52-year-old "Celebrity Apprentice" winner has canceled the remainder of his performances during the weeklong cruise that wraps up Sunday after stops in Jamaica, Grand Cayman and Mexico. There were no other details available. An email to Norwegian Cruise Lines seeking information was not immediately returned. Wynonna, Montgomery Gentry and Love and Theft were among the other acts performing aboard the NCL Pearl with Adkins.

Francis Bacon portrait could fetch \$50M at auction

LONDON (AP)—A portrait by Francis Bacon of his lover and muse is going up for auction, with an estimated price of 30 million pounds (\$49 million).

Portrait of George Dyer Talking" depicts a young Londoner with whom Bacon had a turbulent relationship. It was exhibited at Bacon's first major retrospective show in Paris in 1971. Dyer killed himself just before it opened.

Francis Outred, head of contemporary art at Christie's Europe, said Wednesday that the painting offered "a powerful portrait of arguably one of Bacon's greatest

It will be offered by Christie's in London on Feb. 13.

The value of Bacon's work has soared since his death in 1992. In November, a Bacon triptych depicting artist Lucian Freud fetched \$142 million, becoming the most expensive artwork ever sold at auction.

Kids who skip dad's funeral are happy to claim his things

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: When my husband died, he didn't have a lot of possessions. He died without a will, so what little he had is now with me. My problem is my mother-in-law keeps asking that I return things she gave him.

I wouldn't mind if she has them, but she has been giving them to his children, who hated him and were rude and disrespectful. They nei-



ther called nor came to see him during his long illness. They didn't even bother to come to his funeral.

I feel they want his things only because they think they might be of some value, not out of any respect or affection. My kids showed him more respect and love than his own did, and I'd rather they have his things.

Should I be honest and tell my mother-in-law why I won't give her any more of his possessions? I just don't know what to do.

OKLAHOMA WIDOW

DEAR WIDOW: It's sad that your stepchildren ignored their father during his illness and chose to skip his funeral. Be sure to point that out when you tell your former motherin-law you have other plans for the items. She may not like hearing it, but once a gift is given, it belongs to the recipient. And because her son died without a will, the recipient is you, his widow.

DEAR ABBY: I recently started a new job. One of the management individuals has taken a strong interest in me. He keeps doing favors for me that benefit me financially and I appreciate it. (I have never asked him to do this.)

I have always been courteous and took his gestures as a sign of kindness. But now he has started complimenting me and talking about things that go way beyond conversation. It's making me uncomfortable.

We have gone out on two friendly lunches before, and he is a genuine, kind, educated, wonderful man. He would be a great catch, but the problem is he is extremely overweight. I am emotionally attracted to him, but physically repelled. I can't wait years for him to lose the weight, but he is taking my kindness as a possible show of interest. Have you any advice that could help end his attraction, but continue the business advice he provides for me?

IN A SPOT IN TAMPA

DEAR IN A SPOT: When the man compliments you about anything that isn't work-connected, tell him that when he does it, it makes you uncomfortable. And when he raises topics that aren't business-related, steer the conversation right back where it belongs. He may be a kind, genuine, educated, wonderful person, but if he persists, it could be considered harassment.

DEAR ABBY: I am part of a group of neighbors who often go out to dinner together. However, one woman often talks loudly on her cellphone at the dinner table, and it makes the rest of us feel uncomfortable and insignificant. It has gotten so bad we have stopped inviting her.

I feel sorry for her and wonder if I should explain the reason she's being excluded. What is the best way to handle this dilemma?

FRIEND IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

DEAR FRIEND: If done discreetly and kindly, it might benefit the woman to know why she's no longer included. Frankly, you'd be doing her a favor because her behavior was rude.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE **26** FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

IF SOMETHING BUGS THEM, THEY NEVER LET GO OF IT THEY JUST GO ON AND ON, LONG AFTER ANYONE ELSE IS INTERRESTED! IT'S JUST COMPLAIN, COMPLAIN, COMPLAIN PEOPLE WHO GRIPE ALL THE TIME REALLY DRIVE ME NOTS

YOU'D THINK THEY'D CHANGE THE SUBJECT AFTER A WHILE BUT THEY NEVER DO! THEY JUST KEEP GRIPING UNTIL YOU START TO WONDER, "WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS IDIOT?" BUT THEY GO ON COMPLAINING AND REPEATING WHAT THEY'VE ALREADY SAID!

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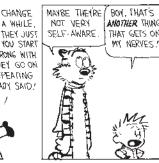
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By Bill Waterson

Garfield®







By Jim Davis

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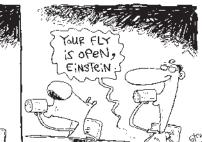


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

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A SMARTPHONE.





By Glenn McCoy

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touchtone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zooey Deschanel, 34; Maksim Chmerkovskiy, 34; Jim Carrey, 52; Betty White, 92.

Happy Birthday: You'll have great ideas that will bring about encounters with people who can contribute to your life personally or professionally. An interesting look at your past and your current surroundings will prompt you to make changes that will add spark and enthusiasm to your life and the way you move forward. How you help others will be noticed. Your numbers are 9, 13, 17, 21, 34, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get together with someone you know and trust and discuss your plans for the future. Someone you used to work with in the past will have constructive suggestions and maybe even a lead that can help you pursue your current goals. •••••

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your mind and your conscience clear. Don't let an emotional matter stand between you and your goal. Take action and show everyone what you are capable of doing. The more you do, the easier it will be to attract allies. ••

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make personal changes. Pick up skills or fix up a space at home to develop something you want to offer as a service to bring in extra cash. A meeting will go well and lead you in a new direction.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't expect anything for nothing. Be prepared to offer something of equivalent value and you will be one step ahead of everyone else and

likely to advance quickly to a position or place you'll be glad to call your own.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't question when action is required. Take a leap of faith when dealing with people you feel can make a difference to your future. Good fortune will come to you if you take ownership of anything attributed to what you do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get involved in activities that allow you to show off your skills. Participation will lead to meeting people who interest you for a variety of reasons. Do a favor and ask for one in return and you'll develop a budding partnership.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do something nice for someone. Your gesture may not be repaid right away, but it will make a difference when you need a favor. Problems at home or with relatives must not be allowed to escalate. Keep the peace and make amends. 2000

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take an interest in different philosophies, lifestyles or ways of doing things and you will find a way to implement your discoveries into your everyday life. Romance will help improve your personal life. Don't take criticism to heart. OO

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do whatever it takes to fix up your living quarters or to make arrangements that

will make your space more convenient. Do your best to get along with the people who live with or near you. An investment will pay off. ••••

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do something different. Get out and meet new people or try an activity or hobby that will challenge you. Use your energy wisely. Be cautious while traveling and avoid arguments. Keep your life simple and your interactions with others peaceful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make alterations to your life based on your emotions and your findings. Research will lead you in a direction that encourages you to explore something you enjoyed doing in the past. An innovative approach will lead to your success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Share with people who have the same beliefs as you. A solid commitment will lead to greater prosperity. Expand your interests and your friendships to include unique and talented pastimes and people. Love and romance are on the rise. Birthday Baby: You are quick-witted, willful and unpredictable. You are curious and imaginative.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		5					6	
			9		8		2	1
1				4				
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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Vootorday's CIIDOVII Answer

testerday's Suduku Aliswer									
6	8	3	7	1	5	2	4	9	
2	9	4	8	6	3	5	1	7	
5	1	7	9	2	4	8	3	6	
8	2	6	1	3	9	7	5	4	
7	4	1	2	5	8	9	6	3	
9	3	5	4	7	6	1	8	2	
1	5	2	6	4	7	3	9	8	
3	6	9	5	8	2	4	7	1	
4	7	8	3	9	1	6	2	5	

1/1.7©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

YONDERWORD.	By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters seal that Wandermard.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TKNOVELSLAREDEF HIEAMNAMREDIPSI IDTZCAPITOLHILL TGTAERGSPNDTILC OERLTSPRONASNPO EEAIITOFUEHUL A H B N G T F R (V) G O B L EHDATNGIESARJLE LWELINEUDA (LA II C KIRLISTTAJCLBST CNLHRARIUGAHAHI EISHELVESGEMEE BAINSWORTHNSERN

Adams, Ainsworth, Beckley, Billington, Capitol Hill, Collections. Digital, Federal, Film. Gershwin, Great, Gutenberg, Hall, History, James, John, Kids, Languages, Largest, Law, Leisure, List, Maps, News, Novels, Print, Prize, Public, Publishers, Reader, Scan, Shelves, Spiderman, Spofford, Staff, Teachers, Titles, Washington D.C. Yesterday's Answer: Solve It

WSMADADROFFOPSS

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2 is here! Purchase online at wonderword, universaludick.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 103 puzzles.)

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Beats the heat: Sharapova into 3rd round

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Soaked with sweat and clinging desperately for survival, Maria Sharapova was serving for the match when Australian Open organizers finally decided that the searing heat was extreme enough to suspend matches.

That was 5-4 in the third set, 2 hours and 38 minutes into her second-round match against No. 44-ranked Karin

Knapp on Thursday, but it didn't apply to the pair on Rod Laver Arena because the Extreme Heat Policy only kicks in at the end of sets in progress. So they continued without

reprieve and it took another 50 minutes before Sharapova converted her fourth match point for a grueling 6-3, 4-6, 10-8 victory.

It was 39 C (102 F) when Sharapova's match started at just after 11 a.m. local and almost 43 C (109 F) by the time she finished. That was just shy of the maximum forecast during the third straight day of a heat wave in sweltering Melbourne. The 3-hour, 28-minute match was the longest so far in the 2014 women's tournament.

Sharapova wasted three match points on serve in the 10th game of the third set, and then had to save break points and serve to stay in the match. She earned a crucial break seven games later, but it wasn't a simple matter of serving out.

Three double-faults in the last game—Sharapova's 10th, 11th and 12th of the match gave Knapp another break point and a chance to extend it further. But with a reflex backhand from Sharapova that just caught the line, and two errors from Knapp, it was over.

"I wanted this match," Sharapova said. "I didn't play my best tennis; I didn't do many things well ... (but) I got through it, and sometimes that's what's important.

"When you win match point you get off the court, no matter how you feel and how tough it was ... I love these moments. "

Sharapova, playing her second tournament back from extended time off for a right shoulder injury, wore ice vests in every changeover after the third game, draped ice bags over shoulders and poured water over her head to keep cool

She hit 34 winners but made 67 unforced errors in an increasingly frustrated push to finish points early.

The four-time major winner will next meet No. 25 Alize Cornet of France, who sobbed on court after beating Camila Giorgi of Italy 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in 2 1/2 hours.

"I went really further than my limits. It was really hot, that's why I'm so emotional,' Cornet said of the conditions. "Doing something physical in this heat it's just unbelievable."

Former No. 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki got the luck of the draw, with her match played under the roof on Rod Laver Arena immediately after Sharapova finished. The No. 10-seeded Wozniacki won 6-0,

> 1-6, 6-2 over Christina McHale and described the relatively mild conditions as "pleasant."

> No. 29 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova had a 6-2, 6-2 win over Mandy

Minella in 1:17, but said her two first-round matches had taken a toll. She said she'd almost passed out in her firstround match.

There were nine retirements in the first round, equaling a Grand Slam record. Ivan Dodig's retirement on Wednesday increased the tally to 10 - Dodig said he felt like he could die on the court. Others said it was inhumane to make players go on courtand that was before Thursday's peak temperatures.

Crowd numbers have been



Maria Sharapova of Russia applies an ice pack to her head as she attempts to cool down during her second round match against Karin Knapp of Italy at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014.

down compared with previous years at Melbourne Park, and hardy fans have had to be resourceful to keep cool. The concourse level at Rod Laver Arena, where tickets are not needed for entry, was crammed with hundreds of fans trying to escape the outside temperatures.

No. 11 Simona Halep had a 4-6, 6-0, 6-1 win over American Varvara Lepchenko, who only won one game after needing treatment for heatrelated problems late in the second set.

In other results, No. 16 Carla Suarez Navarro beat Galina Voskoboeva 7-6 (2), 3-6, 8-6, No. 20 Dominika Cibulkova beat Switzerland's Stefanie Vogele 6-0, 6-1 and Kazakhstan qualifier Zarina Diyas beat New Zealand's Marina Erakovic 6-4, 6-0.

In the only men's match completed before the Extreme Heat Policy was invoked, No. 16 Kei Nishikori had a 6-1, 6-1, 7-6 (3) win over Dusan Lajovic. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga started his match under the blazing sun and finished it with a roof over the court in beating Thomaz Bellucci 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-4 at Hisense Arena.

maha' keeps Broncos foes off-balance



ENGLE-WOOD, Colo. (AP)—Peyton Manning's road to the Super Bowl has taken an unexpected

detour. Through Omaha, of all places.

On Wednesday, Manning pretended to shed a bit of light on his new favorite city, the name of which he shouted out 44 times from the line of scrimmage during Denver's playoff win over San Diego last weekend.

"I've had a lot of people ask me what 'Omaha' means," Manning said. "It's a run play, but it could be a pass play, or a play-action pass, depending on a couple of things. The wind, which way we're going, the quarter and the jerseys we're wearing. It varies from play to play."

With the AFC title game looming and the number of reporters quadrupling for his weekly session with the media, No. 18 was at his deadpan best.

All joking aside, though, America's new obsession with Omaha—a top trender on Twitter during last Sunday's game—provides yet another window into the Manning mystique.

At some points last Sunday, he used it as a snap count. At others, it was a dummy cadence. And at others, it may have meant something-or nothing—but only the other 10 guys on the field wearing orange would've known.

By simply perfecting their shenanigans with the snap count, Manning and the Broncos found a big advantage. They drew the Chargers offside five times. Then, once the San Diego defenders realized they'd been duped, they spent the rest of the game a half-second slow.

Next Sunday, Manning faces New England with a trip to the Super Bowl on the line. The Patriots know what they're in for.

"That's always been a big part of Peyton's game, is con-

trolling the defensive front, however he does it with the fake cadence, double cadence, hard counts, so forth," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "We have to do a great job, be disciplined there."

By doing most of his best work at the line before the ball is snapped, Manning set the NFL record for yardage (5,477) and touchdown passes (55) this season. Yet for all his success, there are three stats that stand out in a bad way as he prepares for the Patriots and his 15th career meeting against Tom Brady.

-Manning is 4-10 against Brady. He's always looked at the games as Colts or Broncos vs. Patriots, though Manning doesn't shy away from praising the quarterback he's shared the spotlight with over the years.

"I think the one thing that jumps out about Tom is just his consistency," Manning said. "I feel like he's been a better player each year than he was the year before. That, to me, speaks to his work ethic in the offseason, his refusal to be complacent or satisfied."

-Manning's season low in

passing yardage came against New England in Week 12. He threw for 150 yards, as Belichick drew up a game plan that dared the Broncos to run. They did, gaining 280 yards on the ground (224 from Knowshon Moreno), but it didn't produce a 'W.'

"Coach Belichick is the best coach that I've ever competed against," Manning said. "I think it's safe to say he'll go down as the greatest NFL coach of all time."

-Finally, Manning is 10-11 career in the playoffs with two trips to the Super Bowl and one win. A pedestrian record for someone so good. One thought: Manning's preparation is so meticulous during the regular season that there's nowhere to go once the playoffs arrive and the games get more important. He gives that theory no credence.

"I guess what I would say is, if you have to prepare harder for this game, that means you probably haven't been preparing hard enough all season long," he said.

For teams trying to stop him, part of the preparation during playoff time means figuring out what "Omaha," or any other word of the week, might mean on any given snap.

The word "Omaha" isn't all that uncommon. Manning's brother, Eli, has used it. So has Brady, in fact.

Asked how it came about, Manning again played it coy: "It wasn't my pick, I guess," he said.

QB Tom Brady sits out Patriots practice

(AP)—The New England Patriots are taking Tom Brady's absence from practice in

championship game against the Denver Broncos, the star quarterback missed practice Wednesday because of illness and his right shoulder, the Patriots said in their practice report.

Brady said last week that he had a cold. Then he led the Patriots to a 43-22 win over the Indianapolis Colts in an AFC playoff game on a rainy Saturday night. Earlier in the season, he was listed on the injury report with the shoulder condition but usually practiced with it.

was the quarterback for the offense and also emulated Denver quarterback Peyton fun," he said. "I took a lot Manning for the defense.

Tom because I know Tom," Mallett said.

Wide receiver Julian Edelman, who caught 105 passes from Brady this season, said practice is different without him.

"But Ryan came in and he ran the offense," Edelman said. "And, more importantly, I was just kind of worrying about what I had to do to get my assignments and get my work in. I'm sure other guys were thinking the same thing."

Brady's scheduled media Backup Ryan Mallett did availability was cancelled.

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. double duty Wednesday. He He's scheduled for another one Friday.

> As for Mallett, "it was more reps, though. I was a "I'm not worried about little more fatigued at the end than normal so that was the only difference."

> > Coach Bill Belichick provided no details on Brady's absence.

> > Asked the last time that Brady surprised his coach of 14 years, Belichick said, with a smile, "this morning."

What was the surprise?

"We'll keep that between Tom and I," he said.

Long snapper Danny Aiken also missed practice with an illness. Punter Ryan Allen, who hurt his shoulder against the Colts, practiced on a limited basis.

Wizards hand Heat 3rd straight loss, 114-97

WASHINGTON time victory. **(AP)**—The Washington Wizards had a 34-point lead against the Miami Heat reduced to single digits Wednesday night before holding on for a 114-97 victory in Greg Oden's first game in more than four years.

John Wall scored 25 points, and Bradley Beal and Nene had 19 apiece to lead seven players in double figures for the Wizards, who shot a season-high 55 percent and closed the game with a 17-9 run to avoid an second straight embarrassing collapse at home.

Chris Bosh scored 26 points, and LeBron James had 25 points, eight rebounds, seven assists and four turnovers for the Heat, who have dropped three straight, all on the road.

Oden stepped onto the court for his first regular-season game since Dec. 5, 2009.

Oden, who has struggled to overcome knee injuries throughout his NBA career, played nine minutes and scored six points.

Bulls 128, Magic 125, 3 OTs

In Orlando, Fla., Joakim Noah had a season-high 26 points, Carlos Boozer scored 23, and Chicago extended Orlando's season-high losing streak to nine games with a triple-over-

The Magic had a chance to win the game with less than 10 seconds to play, but Glen Davis' jumper was partially blocked and rebounded by the Bulls with just 1.5 seconds remaining.

The Bulls have now won the last seven matchups with the Magic played in Orlando and improved to 4-1 since trading Luol Deng.

Victor Oladipo had a careerhigh 35 points and Jameer Nelson added 31 points and 10 assists for Orlando. Tobias Harris added 22 points and 16 rebounds.

Clippers 129, **Mavericks 127**

In Los Angeles, J.J. Redick scored a career-high 33 points and Los Angeles rallied from 17 points down with 4 ½ minutes left to beat Dallas.

Matt Barnes added 25 points, Blake Griffin had 23 and Jamal Crawford scored 16, including a pair of free throws that gave the Clippers the lead with 11 seconds to go. They improved to 18-3 at home with their fourth straight win.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 27 points and Samuel Dalembert added a season-high 20 for the Mavs, whose three-game winning streak ended when they couldn't hold a 123-106 lead.

Jose Calderon hit four 3-point—won their third straight. ers on his way to 16 points.

Nuggets 123, Warriors 116

In Oakland, Calif., Nate Robinson scored 14 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, J.J. Hickson grabbed a season-high 24 rebounds and streaky Denver outlasted Golden State.

Wilson Chandler added 22 points and six rebounds, and Ty Lawson finished with 22 points and 11 assists to give Oakland native and first-year Nuggets coach Brian Shaw a victory in his hometown.

Denver outshot Golden State 54 to 43 percent.

David Lee had 28 points and 11 rebounds, and Stephen Curry scored 24 points for the well-rested Warriors, who took the lead with 1:13 remaining before the Nuggets pulled away again. Golden State, which had won 11 of its past 12 games, hadn't played since beating Boston on Friday night.

Trail Blazers 108, **Cavaliers 96**

In Portland, Ore., LaMarcus Aldridge had 32 points and 18 rebounds, scoring nine straight points that pulled Portland in front in the final four minutes, and the Trail Blazers beat Cleveland.

Damian Lillard added 28 points for the Blazers, who

Luol Deng had 25 points for the Cavaliers, who were playing the second of a back-toback after a victory over the Lakers on Tuesday night. Kyrie Irving added 21 points.

Rockets 103, Pelicans 100

In New Orleans, James Harden capped a 26-point performance with a tiebreaking jumper with 28 seconds left, and Houston beat reeling New Orleans for its third straight victory.

Eric Gordon scored a seasonhigh 35 points, but the Pelicans lost their seventh straight.

Terrence Jones scored 25 and Dwight Howard added 12 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks for the Rockets, who trailed by as many as 17 in the second quarter and by eight with about four minutes to go. Harden had a hand in 12 of Houston's final 17 points, scoring 10 and assisting on Howard's alley-oop dunk.

Grizzlies 82. Bucks 77

In Milwaukee, Mike Conley and James Johnson each scored 15 points and Memphis won its season-high fourth straight.

Ed Davis added 14 points and nine rebounds for Memphis, which improved to 19-19 and returned to the .500 mark for the first time since Dec. 9 (10-10).

the ninth time in 13 games despite no points in 14 minutes from Marc Gasol. It was the second game in two days for the NBA's reigning Defensive Player of the Year after he missed 23 contests with a left MCL sprain. He had 12 points in 24 minutes Tuesday against Oklahoma City.

Spurs 109, Jazz 105

In San Antonio, Tony Parker had 25 points and nine assists, and San Antonio escaped a late rally to beat Utah and extend its winning streak to six games.

Utah closed the game on a 19-7 run, but was unable to complete the comeback after falling behind by 18 points in the second half.

Marco Belinelli, Tim Duncan and Kawhi Leonard scored 15 points apiece, and Manu Ginobili had 13 in his first home start of the season for San Antonio (31-8).

Enes Kanter had 25 points off the bench for Utah (13-27). Alec Burks scored 20 points, Derrick Favors had 19 points and 12 rebounds, Trey Burke added 17 points and former Spurs forward Richard Jefferson had 15 points.

Suns 121, Lakers 114

In Phoenix, Gerald Green had a strong second half to finish

The Grizzlies also won for with a season-high 28 points and lead Phoenix over Los An-

> Channing Frye had 10 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter and Markieff Morris scored 17 of his 24 in the first half to help the Suns snap a three-game skid. Goran Dragic added 18 points, 10 rebounds and seven

> Pau Gasol scored 24 points to lead the Lakers and Wesley Johnson had 22 against his former team.

Kings 111, Timberwolves 108

In Minneapolis, Rudy Gay had 33 points, five rebounds and six assists, and Isaiah Thomas had 26 points and seven assists to lead Sacramento over Min-

Gay hit 12 of 19 shots and Derrick Williams had 16 points on 7-of-11 shooting in his first game at Target Center since the Timberwolves traded him to the Kings in November. De-Marcus Cousins had 20 points and 11 boards, and the Kings shot 55 percent to win for the fourth time in five games.

Kevin Love had 27 points and 11 rebounds for Minnesota. But Ricky Rubio committed five of Minnesota's 12 turnovers and the Wolves fell to 0-11 in games decided by four points or less.



WNO CREDIT CHECKS, BEST BRANDS SAIPAN 234-RENT





Micro Games entry by numbers deadline today

Local sports federation interested in competing in 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei have only until today to inform Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association how many delegates they will be sending in the quadrennial event.

NMASA president Michael White, in an email circulated to NMASA members, said that local federations must indicate

TUMON, Guam—The Guam

Visitors Bureau, along with the

Pacific Islands Club Guam and

United Airlines, are pleased to

announce exciting new enhance-

ments for the 2014 Guam Inter-

The 2nd Annual Guam In-

ternational Marathon will take

place on April 13, 2014. Event

organizers announced the cre-

ation of an expo event to be held

on two days prior to the event.

The expo will be held at the Pa-

cific Islands Club and will also

serve as the exclusive location

for registered runners to pick up

The expo will include vendor

booths, local arts and crafts, food

and beverage concessions, and

Other notable changes for the

2014 Guam International Mara-

thon include an earlier start time

for the Marathon event, added

race course aid stations and

amenities, live entertainment on

the race course, expanded Cool

Zone locations, and a larger post-

race festival beginning at 4pm

at Gov. Joseph Flores Memo-

rial Park at Ypao Beach in Tu-

On the south end, MHS

worked out a 25-16 win over

the Lady Eagles in the opening

set and had an even tougher

victory in the second, 25-22,

to bag the outright triumph. In

the mandatory third set, GCA

managed to pull off a 15-12

Meanwhile, GCA was try-

ing to recover from its debut

loss yesterday when it played

MHS JV in the second game

on the north end. Also set in

the second match on the south

21 and 17 points, respectively.

Travilla fired three triples in the

first half and had 11 points in the

opening frame, while Pena con-

nected two shots from beyond

the arc and added another field

goal to power Hula Girls to a

Hula Girls never relinquished

the double-digit margin in the

second half despite the arrival

of Wrecking Balls' Rachel

Abrams. Abrams scored 10

points in the final frame, but her contribution was offset by the

combined output (19) of Travil-

la and Pena. Travilla knocked

31-19 advantage at the break.

HULA

From Page 32

national Marathon.

their race packets.

live entertainment.

SIS

From Page 32

set with a 19-17 victory.

how many male and female athletes and coaches are going to

"If you don't give me this information by tomorrow (today), I will assume that you're not sending a team, and will advise the organizing committee acstated in the email.

The NMASA head reminded that any federation that will com-

mit to the Games, but will end up with no team in Pohnpei may be slapped with fines under the Micro Games Charter.

fast-pitch softball, spear-fishing, swimming, lawn tennis, indoor volleyball, wrestling, canoe racing, table tennis, weightlifting, and Micronesian All-Around.

As of yesterday afternoon, only the CNMI's basketball teams made commitment to the Games. Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands development officer Elias Rangamar said BANMI is sending two

This Guam International Mar-

athon event includes 5K, 10K,

Half Marathon (13.1 miles) and

Marathon (26.2 miles) race dis-

tances. All courses have been

officially certified by the IAAF

(International Association of

Athletic Federations) and AIMS

(Association of International

Marathons and Distance Races).

This designation means that

marathon runners may use this

as a qualifying event for the Bos-

teams (12 players each for the ming, and athletics groups had men's and women's squad), four coaches, and two officials.

Canoe, tennis, baseball, swim-

previously expressed their interests in sending athletes to Pohnpei. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

Source: Kershaw, Dodgers agree to \$215M deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Clayton Kershaw agreed Wednesday to a \$215 million, seven-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press, a deal that makes the two-time Cy Young Award

winner baseball's first player with a \$30 million average salary.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not yet been announced

Kershaw receives the most lucrative deal for a pitcher, breaking the mark of \$180 million set by Justin Verlander last March for his seven-year contract with Detroit.

Kershaw would have been eligible for free agency after the upcoming season if the

new deal hadn't been reached. He was eligible for salary arbitration, and those figures were

9, Abobo 6, Francisco 6, Ermitanio 4, Cenir 4, Castillo 3, Espanola 3, Zietzke 2.

SSHS 24 - Wong 8, Merante 4, Macapagal 4, Muna 4, Bahillo 2, Fejeran 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-2, 23-7, 38-13, 51-24.

JV Game

MHS 48 – Borja 12, Manalili 12, Pamintuan 10, Benavente 3, Bucayo 2, Cristobal 2, De Guzman 2, Subang 2.

SSHS 34 - Warren 12, Taitano 6, Esmundo 5, Rivera 5, Deleon Guerrero 2, Espinosa 2, Tekopuo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 5-5, 18-14, 32-18, 48-34.

Varsity Game

MHS 90 - Yap 20, Factor 13, Capuyon 11, Ano 8, Iglecias 7, Espinosa 7, Cayading 6, Kwon 4, Malonzo 4, Mendoza 4, Arciaga 4.

SSHS 51 – Javier 17, Feria 11, Palacios 5, Castro 5, Roquero 4, Deleon Guerrero 4, Camacho 4, Kintaro 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-14, 49-20, 71-42, 90-51.

Second Game

Hula Girls 62 - Travilla 21, Pena 17, M. Kautz 10, I. Palero 4, Pagarao 3, J.Palero 2.

Wrecking Balls 46 - Ito 14, Abrams 10, Williams 8, R. Kautz 5, Reyes 5, Lebria 3, Alegre 2. Scoring by halves: 32-19.

Third Game

Rollers 3 60 – Francisco 13, Rios 12, Cruz 9, Morales 9, Alipio 8, Amog 7, Factor 6, De Luna 4, Dancoe 2.

FTMP 58 – Montes 29, A. Francisco 15, Omengkar 10, Asistores 3, Sanarez 2.

Scoring by halves: 21-20, 71-58.

set to be exchanged on Friday. He was coming off a two-year, \$20 million deal that included \$200,000 in bonuses in 2012, a \$500,000 escalator to his 2013 base salary, and \$300,000 in bonuses last year.

General manager Ned Col-

letti said last week that both sides had been negotiating.

"It's our desire to sign him here for a very long time," Colletti said.

The average salary of \$30.7 million tops the previous high of \$27.5 million, set by the New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez as part of a 10-year agreement from December 2007. While Roger Clemens had a contract with a listed salary of \$28 million with the Yankees in 2007, he joined the team in June and actually made \$17.4 million.

The Dodgers had baseball's second-highest payroll at the end of the regular season last fall—more than \$236 million.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L Pct	GB
Toronto	19	18 .514	-
Brooklyn	15	22 .405	4
New York	15	23 .395	41/2
Boston	14	26 .350	61/2
Philadelphia	13	25 .342	61/2

Southeast Division

Miami	27	11 .711	_
Atlanta	20	18 .526	7
Washington	18	19 .486	81/2
Charlotte	16	24 .400	12
Orlando	10	29 256	171/2

Central Division

Indiana	30	7 .811	_
Chicago	18	19 .486	12
Detroit	16	22 .421	141/2
Cleveland	14	25 .359	17
Milwaukee	7	31 .184	231/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

outhwest Division							
an Antonio	31	8 .795	_				
ouston	26	14 .650	51/2				
allas	23	17 .575	81/2				
lemphis	19	19 .500	111/2				
ew Orleans	15	23 .395	151/2				

Northwest Division

Portland	29	9 .763	_
Oklahoma City	28	10 .737	1
Denver	20	18 .526	9
Minnesota	18	20 .474	11
Utah	13	27 .325	17

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	LI	13 .0/3	_
Golden State	25	15 .625	2
Phoenix	22	16 .579	4
Sacramento	14	23 .378	111/2
L.A. Lakers	14	25 .359	121/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pohnpei

cordingly. You will probably not be allowed to enter a team if you

change your mind later," White

mon. Other key sponsors of the

Guam International Marathon

include the stations of KUAM,

ASC Trust Corporation, Bank of

Guam, DFS Galleria, Docomo

Pacific, Nanbo Insurance, SPPC/

Circle K, Taico and TakeCare In-

The inaugural Guam Inter-

national Marathon saw 2,150

runners from around the world

participate. "The event team and

our community partners look

forward to hosting another world

class event with numerous new

value added features," said race

director Ben Ferguson. "We con-

tinue to push for online registra-

tions and will be promoting this

event aggressively through tradi-

tional and social media both on

Guam as a premier destination

for sports tourism, the Guam

Visitors Bureau is proud to part-

ner with the organizers and spon-

sors for this world-class event,"

said Karl Pangelinan, General

Manager of the Guam Visitors

Bureau. "The 2nd Annual Guam

International Marathon is a won-

derful opportunity for our local

court was the Kagman versus MHS Varsity tiff, while in the

first two matches, SIS JV chal-

lenged Kagman JV on the north

end and SIS Varsity met South-

ern on the south side. Results of

last Thursday's matches were

unavailable at press time and

will be reported in Saipan Tri-

Games in the double-round

robin regular season of the

MISO league will be played

every Tuesday and Thursday,

while the double-elimination

tournament is set for March 7

and 8 with Rota and Tinian in-

vited to field teams in the an-

in two more treys in the second half, while Pena drilled three of

Hula Girls' last four field goals.

In the boys division game, the

depleted crew of Rollers 4 pre-

Rollers 4 played with only

four players, but still managed to

take the 11-point win to improve

its record to 3-4 and remain in the

hunt for the playoff berth. Only

the Top 4 teams after the double-

round robin elimination will ad-

vance to the playoffs and Rollers

4 is in a tie for fourth place with

FTMP, behind co-leaders Rollers

2 (6-1) and Rollers 3 (6-1) and

Rollers 1 (5-1).

Rollers 4 63, Rollers 5 52

vailed against Rollers 5.

nual competition.

bune's Monday edition.

"As we continue to promote

island and internationally."

This year's Micro Games will run from July 19 to 29 and will feature 13 events athletics, baseball, basketball,

Guam International Marathon expands offerings in Year 2 stakeholders and international visitors alike to enjoy the island's

scenic views and Håfa adai spirit

as they're cheered on by mem-

bers of our community along the

race course.' The Guam International Marathon media campaign is designed to promote not only registration but also provide training schedules and other pertinent in-

formation about the 2014 event via radio, print and television, as well as on the event instagram, twitter and facebook pages. Race updates and information

can also be found on the official event Facebook page/guaminternationalmarathon or on the event

Wong, who had a team-high 8

In the junior varsity game,

Both teams had a slug-

gish start, drilling only two

field goals apiece in the first

quarter, but MHS picked up

its scoring in the last three quarters, while Southern only

logged twin digits in the pay-

Ignacio Borja nailed 8 of his

12 points in the second quarter,

turning the first-quarter dead-

lock, 5-all, to an 18-14 halftime

lead. Then in the third quarter,

Borja partnered with Ethan

Manalili's in giving MHS a

Borja and Manalili went

cold in the fourth, but Aaron

Pamintuan was there to keep

MHS' safe distance, as he fired

8 of the Dolphins' last 9 mark-

tion of Southern was its var-

Completing MHS' domina-

twin-digit spread, 32-18.

the Dolphins also eased past

the Manta Rays, 48-34.

MHS

markers.

off canto.

From Page 32

ton Marathon. Complete event details and registration can be found on the official event website at www.guaminternationalmarathon.com. (PR)

sity team, which mauled the Rays, 90-52. The Dolphins much deeper

bench proved to be too much to handle for Southern, which again struggled to find the right combination on the floor to absorb its second loss in as many games. The Dolphins improved to a 2-0 record.

All the 11 players who suited up for the Dolphins scored at least 4 points apiece. Michael Yap led MHS' balance scoring with his 20 markers, while Prince Factor and John John Capuyon contributed 13 and 11, respectively.

The Dolphins spread the wealth early for a 26-14 lead after the first quarter and by the end of the opening half, they pulled away further, 49-20, as Southern was limited to 6 points. The Manta Rays then made some headway in the third with their 10-0 scoring in the opening two minutes, but MHS recovered quickly to regain the comfortable lead.

9th Grade Game

MHS 51 – Ong 10, Darag

All four players for Rollers 4 broke into double figures to hand Rollers 5 its sixth loss in as many games. Jonathan Sagun had 20 points, Marlek Toves chipped in 17 and Warren Ellama and Vince Iba added 13 each.

Rollers 3 71, FTMP 58

In the other game in the boys division, Rollers 3 went all out in the second half en route to the 13-point win over FTMP.

Ahead by only a hair at halftime, 21-20, Rollers 3 exploded for 50 points in the second half for the easy victory. Rollers 3 drew at least 6 points apiece from four different players in the second half to turn a close game to a double-digit winning margin. Jethro Cruz led the secondquarter assault, drilling all his 10 points in that period.

triples in the second half against only one from FTMP, which re-

First Game

Rollers 4 63 -Sagun 20, Toves 17, Ellama 13, Iba 13.

Rollers 5 52 - Alonzo 12, linan 2.

lied heavily on Tristan Montes.

Rollers 3 connected on five

Caracut 9, Ogumoro 8, Yu 8, Cobacha 6, Tengco 4, Pange-

Scoring by halves: 30-27,

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 **31**

Tsunami Saipan at Guam Short Course Championships

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura and his swimmers pose for a photo at the arrival area of the Francisco C. Palacios/Saipan International Airport after competing in the Guam Short Course Championships last weekend.



Two Tsunami Saipan swimmers and their chaperon smile to the cam-



Two Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose with their trophies.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers show their trophies and medals.



A Tsunami Saipan swimmer competes in the 25y breaststroke race.



Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, right, congratulates his swimmers.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers are on lanes 1 and 2.



Two Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose for a photo after completing their





Female swimmers get ready at the starting block for the 50y freestyle race.



32 FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MHS shuts out Southern in MISO caging



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

arianas High School showed no mercy against the hapless Saipan Southern High School, winning all three division games in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Wednesday night at the MHS Gymnasium.

string of three victories in one division after tallying 10 mark-

night with a 51-24 rout of the Manta Rays in the ninth division. grade MHS held Southern to three field goals in

the first game to earn the double-digit win.

Djaymarch Ong top-scored in the Dolphins' second win in as

The Dolphins started their many games in the ninth grade

ers. He and Sam Darag led MHS' offense in the first half to lift the team to a 23-7 halftime lead.

Eight other players made it to the board for MHS, while only six scored for Southern led by Elnathan

See MHS on Page 30

Hula Girls sweeps preliminary games



Hula Girls' Marie Javier pulls up for a jumper during their game against Futball in the Sun Palace caging last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Hula Girls won and kept its unbeaten record after another victory last Wednesday night against Wrecking Balls.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Hula Girls kept its undefeated record in preliminary round

of the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament after dominating the Wrecking Balls, 62-46, last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipur-

pose Gymnasium.

fect 6-0 mark and faces the last ranked Tappers (1-5) in the first semis match tonight at 5:30pm. In the second and last semis

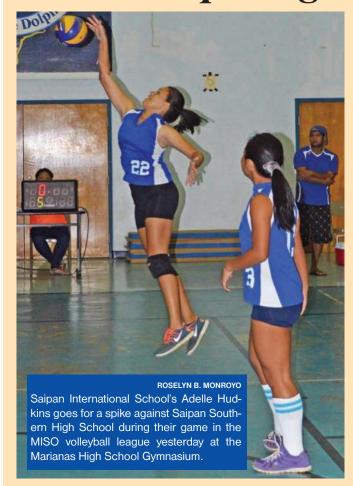
robin competition with a per-

pairing at 6:30pm, the second-ranked Wrecking Balls (4-2) takes on No. 3 Futball (1-5). Jan Travilla and Friendly Joy Pena

teamed up in giving Hula Girls a flawless record, as they scored

See HULA on Page 30

SIS leads opening day winners in v'ball



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Last year's finalist Saipan International School was among the opening day winners in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League last Tuesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Geckos were pitted against the junior varsity team of Kagman High School in the second match on the north court and won all three sets to start their bid in the eight-team field on a positive note. SIS, which lost to Grace Christian Academy in the finals last season, was right on target in the opening set against Kagman JV, 25-7, and secured the early win with a 25-14 triumph in the second set. The Lady Geckos went on to shut out Kagman with a 15-10 victory in the third set.

On the southern end of the court, Mount Carmel School also went 3-0 against Saipan

Southern High School. The Lady Knights, who bowed to SIS JV in the battle for third place last season, opened their campaign this year with a thrilling 26-24 win in the opening set. Then in the second set, Mt. Carmel gained more leverage for a gameclinching 25-14 victory before completing the sweep with a 15-10 triumph.

Meanwhile, MHS first two games in the league with its junior varsity squad prevailing against Kagman's varsity team on the north court and the Dolphins' varsity group stunning the defending champion GCA on the south

The Dolphins' JV team cruised past Kagman in the opening set of their match on the north end, 25-10, before laboring a 25-20 triumph in the second to seal the early victory. The Lady Ayuyus then avoided a shutout after bouncing back in the extended third

See SIS on **Page 30**

Hula Girls finished the round-